

## St Margaret's Academy Parent Council Meeting

25<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Parents Present	St Margaret's Staff	Apologies
Lisa Loran (Chair) Christine Cooper Caroline Wilson Denise Lawson Mark Cooper	Siobhan McGarty (HT) Isla Wright (DHT) Tina Melville (DHT) Anne Crookston (Acting DHT)	Elizabeth Traynor Julie Renfrew (Acting DHT)

1. Opening prayer
2. Welcome led by Mrs Loran who outlined the format of the evening.
3. Matters arising- reporting to be discussed tonight
4. Mrs McGarty presented the HT Report:
  - A staffing update was shared which included news that Mr Beveridge left in January from the Maths department. Mrs Dougall will replace him until Easter and Mr Ahmed has returned, all welcomed him back. The ad for the permanent position of PTC Social Subjects is live, and also for Acting PT Raising Attainment (with a focus on data analysis).
  - Remote learning- Since the last Parent Council met, the situation has changed with schools returning to a period of remote learning for most pupils. The remote learning model has been put in place and is under continual review. The main focus for the staff is to support high quality learning and teaching through this model. Staff have also been working with parents to ensure that young people have IT resources and are confident in the use of Teams.
  - Engagement with learning is being tracked by staff based on activity on Teams, and PTCs are contacting parents if there are any issues to provide support.
  - Feedback on progress has been gathered from all stakeholders- parents, pupils and staff. Input welcomed from Parent Council in later agenda point.
  - Reporting information is being reviewed in light of the current situation in particular the Senior Phase format.
  - The staff are focusing on continual development of digital learning and also working with each other (and across the Local Authority) to moderate assessment materials in preparation for holistic assessments.

- The cluster of primary schools are reviewing their work on Literacy development and discussing the possibility of a similar model to support Numeracy where an acting DHT was appointed this session to work between the school and the primaries.

5. Mrs Wright provided an overview of the Pathways programme:

A full Pathways programme has been started with pupils engaging in Careers/Curriculum discussions during PSE/Assemblies and subject time. A plan for parental engagement will be shared in the next few weeks which will include a pathways recorded event for pupils and parents.

6. Remote learning discussion and feedback

Mrs McGarty provided a summary of feedback about the Remote Learning model and gathering information from the pupil questionnaires. Nearly all pupils feel safe online mainly as the classes are supported through Teams and controlled by teachers. They are mostly confident in the use of Teams and know where to go for help if unsure.

The group discussed the balance of work and challenge where they welcomed the review of this to ensure that young people are able to manage workload, and also have screen breaks. Our parents were very supportive of the timetabled model with seven periods to provide structure, and appreciated the balance of directed teaching with a request for pupils to have more time to complete work/assignments.

Our parents said that their children like their teachers being online either live or sharing pre-recorded learning supporting powerpoints/classwork. One parent commented that they have also heard good feedback from pupils about how remote learning is working. Another parent agreed and said that their child is engaging much better this time and enjoying the structure of the day.

AOB

Parents requested information about SQA past papers and which questions to omit with updates to courses this session. Mrs Wright will discuss with PTCs to provide information to support this. Any updates from SQA will continue to be shared as they are published.

Mrs Loran shared information about a training session for Parent Council members and Connect events. Please email Mrs Loran for further details.

Our parents shared feedback about our recent family learning Literacy event to say that it was very good and encourages youngsters to read more widely. This will be shared with the Literacy team and any video footage of the event shared with parents.

A query about prom for this session but we are not able to organise in the current national circumstances. A request was made for the S6 yearbook to be paid through i-pay. Mrs McGarty will discuss this with the office team.

Our parents thanked our staff for their tremendous work during this period and in particular for tailoring work to individual needs which is more challenging in the present circumstances.

Thanks and closing prayer

Next meeting: **29<sup>th</sup> March 2021**