

Leith Academy Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 29th April 2021 7pm

In attendance	Initials	In attendance	Initials
Michael Irving (Head Teacher)	MI	Laura Brown (Chair)	LB
Colin Brown (Vice Chair)	CB	Rachel Watson (Depute)	RW
Jane Park (Nurture Base)	JP	Adam Kautsky	AK
Alison Fair (Depute Pupil Support)	AF	Andrew Barnett	AB
Xanthe Bird	XB	Paul McNulty	PM
Roger Evans	RE	Helen Clifford	HC
Joanna Barrie	JB	Kerr Duncan (Head Pupil)	KD
Seonaid Gow	SG	Sian Miles	SM
Victoria Griffiths	VG	Fiona Fitzgerald (Treasurer)	FF
Apologies		Minutes	
Hilary Brown	HB	Victoria Mitchell (Clerk)	VM

Item		Action
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions LB opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. Introductions were made.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising The minutes from the last meeting (28th January 2021) were accepted as an accurate record.</p>	
3.	<p>Senior pupils update Kerr (head pupil) gave us an update on how the year has gone for him. Also, there were 2 video presentations from Sal (head pupil) and deputy heads Calum and Ellie.</p>	
4.	<p>Seonaid Gow – Developing the young workforce coordination Scottish government set up a youth employment strategy for pupils so they have a positive destination after school. She started in December 2020 and is the “middle man” between schools and businesses. She would love feedback from parents. She will be based in school eventually and is currently liaising with staff/pupils/businesses remotely.</p>	

	<p>A meeting has been arranged for May. Edinburgh job market is very strong at the moment and has only dropped by 1%. D.Y.W. can send out a link and an email to parents about jobs, apprenticeships etc. The website "Marketplace" posts opportunities for work experience, skills sessions, apprenticeships etc. There is also a section on D.Y.W. website for parents to look at. She will pass on her email. Mike will put the links on the pupil bulletin.</p>	MI
5.	<p>Update on NE Locality Group Hilary Brown could not come to today's meeting. Anyone can attend. There was a lot of advice at the meeting. There was also information regarding the SQA. The minutes of the NE locality group meeting of 27th April 2021 will be circulated.</p>	CB
6.	<p>Financials Current balance of £1729.05 with £120 due to be deducted so the final figure would be £1609.05. Currently no requested for funding.</p>	
7.	<p>Head Teachers Update</p> <p>We're coming to the end of week 2 of summer term since our return post Easter. Thanks for the work you do in reinforcing the approaches our youngsters take to the mitigations, though we are clearly in a more positive place in terms of numbers there are examples of challenging situations that provide a well placed reminder.</p> <p>So, the updates since we last spoke end of Jan;</p> <p>Mental Health Week for Children (relevant to us all) We delivered an assembly to all pupils today (Friday) during period 4 which is recorded here.... Children's Mental Health Week Assembly https://clickv.ie/w/pwlp</p> <p>LGBT History Month We will once again support and champion our value of DIVERSITY across our community of Leith. Keep an eye on our twitter page alongside your Teams sessions with Teachers on updates and ways we can come together to show support.</p> <p>Online Learning Attendance checks Feedback has continued to be positive with engagement online, we are doing all we can to try and make this challenging transition as positive and impactful as possible within the pandemic challenges we are all</p>	

working through.

We began to send support emails to Families if their child was not online for a session we expected them at, this will continue for S4-6. Thanks to Alison for pulling this work together with wider team support.

Ben has also sent out a very quick questionnaire to help us further plan / develop our online learning. There is a set of questions for Pupils (this was sent to Pupil school emails yesterday) and one for Parents – this will be emailed to Parents directly today.

S3 Parents' Eve

Linked to above, our S3 Parents' Eve online is on the 10th March. Start to have conversations with your young adults around the subjects and steps they want to consider moving forward. Our website contains some useful info here <https://leithacademy.uk/pupils/s5-6-handbook/> on courses and next steps. Parents will be sent a link in due course for the Parents' Eve.

Report writing – following detailed and lengthy discussions and meetings, Rachel was able to find solutions which we have used and emailed to Parents. A positive step arising from covid.

Purple Friday - Pass the torch!

We created a video here https://clickv.ie/w/_t3p with staff carrying the culture of pass the torch!....well done to all involved as this work clearly links to our values of Respect, Diversity, Honesty and Fairness. Further to pass the torch, we held an LGBTQ panel discussion yesterday afternoon with influential guests. This was arranged by our young people and Ben and was an interesting and informative discussion that can be viewed here <https://clickv.ie/w/bz3p> .

Head Teacher Equalities / Advisory Group

We meet several times a year and discuss key themes linked to Eco work, Anti Bullying, Amnesty International, LGBTQ, Black History Month and any opportunities we can work on to raise awareness and keep people informed of updates.

We met this week online and had another positive session where we discussed our plans to refresh our Anti Bullying and Equalities policy. We have School information including our current policy here <https://leithacademy.uk/parents/> .

S4,5,6 Reports

Having worked hard to find a Covid based solution, S4-6 reports were emailed out to families yesterday along with a separate email with the covering letter attached. This should help trigger discussion and inform plans / next steps with Families and with us in School.

Equalities

This remains an important and key part of our work, the City of Edinburgh Equalities Newsletter is attached with good signposting. Also attached is the City guide of 'steps we should take' if pupils or families feel things have not gone well linked to racial / discriminatory perceptions. Ben and I had hoped to go through this together as there is some really helpful learning / info, but Covid clearly has prevented that. Please take the 10mins to read over the attached document, I doubt any of it is new, but we are all learning and developing in this area to help make our whole community feel even more supported.

Easter Revision

There are discussions across the City that we may be in a position to offer our usual Easter Revision session, clearly it won't be 'usual' as there will Covid steps to take.

S4,5,6 Formal Assessment Window

Ms Watson is working through some of the details and plans for this after Easter event. We will keep in touch by email with S4,5,6 pupils directly. The main for now is to keep engaging with the work and asking questions if you are unsure in order to develop / improve as best you can.

Scholar online resources

Scholar have a wide range of high quality resources to help compliment the learning in lessons. There is a video here to view <http://bit.ly/StudyWithSCHOLAR> . Email Scholar direct from their website if you have any questions or need support <https://scholar.hw.ac.uk/> .

Press release

Following our hugely kind donation from Sir Ian, to our Drama / Creative area, the varied links to the related press release that was picked up can be found here;

BBC Radio Scotland, Good Morning Scotland – listen from 15:56:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000t63m>.

The Scotsman: <https://www.scotsman.com/whats-on/arts-and-entertainment/lord-of-the-rings-star-sir-ian-mckellen-hopes-to-visit-edinburgh-high-school-after-drama-studio-donation-3170430>

S1-3 Home Covid Tests

The NHS / Govt home testing plan is being extended to S1-3 as well as S4-6 after the Easter break. A separate email has been sent to all S1-3 Families with key information.

Added In Service days

Scottish Govt has planned 2 extra In Service days to help ongoing

	<p>assessment work next term. For Edinburgh these are planned as 25th May and 9th June. Please don't share with Families as these 'may' change, confirmation to come from CEC.</p> <p>Fabric developments – New tech, new carpets, new blinds, new painted walls, new café tables. It is often said 'we are our environment' and although the key factor to pupils achieving is the quality of our relationships and our teaching – there is no denying the positive impact 'new stuff' has. I hope you enjoy it and the pupils feel invested in.</p>	
8.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>XB had been having problems with Virgin Media receiving "Group Call" from the school. Concerned there will be other parents having problems with this too but don't realise it. Suggest an email is sent out by the parent council. Mike has not heard of any problems.</p> <p>Seasons of growth programme will be starting in the new term. Helps with mental health, loss and other support.</p>	
9.	<p>Date for next meeting</p> <p>AGM Thursday 3rd June 2021 7pm. May be subject to change.</p>	