**Leith Academy Parent Council**

**Minutes of meeting held on 29th August 2024 7pm**

| **In attendance** | **Initials** | **In attendance** | **Initials** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Michael Irving (Head Teacher) | MI | Emma McCandless |  |
| Richard Foggo (Chair) | RF |  |  |
| Tamara Hanson | TH | Pupil leadership team |  |
| Vicky Allan (Co-clerk) | VA | Jane Parks |  |
| Alex Nuth (Co-clerk) | AN |  |  |
| Judith Weir |  |  |  |
| Morag Idan |  |  |  |
| Maria Cawson |  |  |  |
| Gordon Carmichael |  |  |  |
| Itay Idan |  |  |  |
| Nikki Dunne |  |  |  |
| Jose Rojas |  |  |  |
| Peter Yates |  | **Minutes** |  |
| Rosalynd Rennie |  | Vicky Allan (Co-clerk) | VA |
| Katrina Milligan |  |  |  |

| **Item** |  | **Action** |
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| **1.** | **Welcome and Introductions**  RF opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. Introductions were made. |  |
| **2.** | **Minutes from last meeting approved** |  |
| **3.** | **Head teacher’s report**   * Head news is on the website and is sent out every week. * At the end of last year, the community police officer, PC Ferrier left, and this year Stevie Patterson arrived. * Staffing is stable, including 3CDT teachers, 3 home economic teachers, full maths team, though an admin course was pulled because of lack of staff, * At the end of last term there were three days of transition in which primary school transitioners came up. * There was a fashion show in which the staff were the models as part of YPI work. In the future, this something PC can be part of * Groups of students participated in the F1 programme. Leith Academy has been Scottish champions twice. UK winner goes to Singapore. * Some students toured the Highlands as part of the Edinburgh School Rock Ensemble * Group of students went on an immersion trip to China, * Sports day was at Meadowbank - LA is looking at how to get some up as spectators too next year * Sports leaders went out at primary schools. * Launched the new Leith hoodie which has gone down well * Leith Academy received a Dyslexia recognition award kitemark, first school in Edinburgh * 190 young people came into S1 and the school worked hard to make a big change smaller for them. * At the assembly at the start of the year MI spoke about Southport tragedy. * Two new policies are of relevance to the school. New mobile phone policy published by the Scottish Government, MI said, has been useful. At Leith Academy the rule is that the phone is only out if teachers ask you to and the policy is in line with that strategy. https://www.gov.scot/publications/mobile-phone-guidance-scotlands-schools/ * A vaping policy came out to all schools which formalised the fact it is illegal and therefore should not be done in schools. [Vaping Guidance for Schools LEITH ACADEMY](https://leithacademy.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Vaping-Guidance-for-Schools-LEITH-ACADEMY.docx) * LA is monitoring in areas such as the toilets Vaping is there, we are doing our best to manage it. |  |
| **4.** | **Pupil leadership team**  Pupil leadership team described how S6 had helped S1 integrate and know where they are going. The buddy system was up and running and there were more clubs opening, inluding a programming club, maths club, Japanese culture and sports clubs.  Also S6 promo committee has been formed. |  |
| **5.** | **Parent questions**  **What is happening with the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme?**  James Miller and Rachel Kelmann are managing and had a full programme for the first year of getting it back on the table, there was initially uptake of about 95 which dropped off. MI checking if there is going to be a programme for S4 DofE..  **How are S1 pupils made to feel safe?**  MI observed that part of the issue is that youngster when they arrive are small and are mixing with older students who are very nearly men and women. He said they don’t have a policy on safety but school needs to be as safe as it can. He observed that fears were a lot to do with the perception of that student being older.  MI noted, also on safety, that every child is registered every single period  There are rooms that students can go to for quiet space - drama and music rooms, spaces where they can feel space  **What about safety and anxiety around toilets, particularly for S1?**  MI said that toilets are checked by a rotation of teachers and this is done at key points of the day. There are certain times when toilets are locked, but always two remain open. Exit passes are in place for all kids.. This was dropped during pandemic then reintroduced.  Toilets are nice and in good condition.  **What is the school doing about bullying**  The anti-bullying policy is on the website, every school has to have a policy. <https://leithacademy.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/LEITH-ACADEMY-Equalities-and-Anti-Bullying-Summary.pdf>  There are also anonymous QR codes around school. Individual cases are best brought forward through the house heads. Policy gets reviewed every year. If something happens it gets investigated and most of the time school is able to move it on and it’s fine.  **When will swimming pool open?**  MI escalating it. Problem is it is 30 years old.  **What clubs are there for those not interested in sport?**  MI said clubs list was on the bulletin. Pupil leadership team noted that there was Maths club, chess, programming, Japanese culture club |  |
| **6.** | **LAPC Survey**  Will be issued through the head’s news and willl be issued to whole parent body. It is an attempt to understand what PC should be focussing on and if there is something to be done to invite more people in. |  |
| **7.** | **Treasurer’s report**  Account balance £1062.53, £1000 of which is grant from Ripple Project for microphones |  |
| **7.** | **Election of treasurer**  TH nominated herself  RF: nominated  AN: seconded  Council Agreed |  |
| **10.** | Next parent council meeting of the year will be in person on 21st November |  |