LHS Parent Council Meeting

02 September 2025

Present: Scott Steele (SS – Headteacher), Ali Berardelli (AB - Chair), Jane Halewood (JH- Treasurer), Lisa Wharton (Secretary), Laura Kingswood, Nick Cochrane, Jess Roberts, Lorraine Servant, Louise Pescod, Alison Stephen, Becky McCook, Charlotte Cant

Apologies: None tendered

Welcome: The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Bereavement Support

The Chair started the meeting by acknowledging the tragic deaths of three former pupils from the current S6 and the caring response and support that the school had offered to pupils and staff. There was general discussion about the need for ongoing support and the school has ensured that long-term, ongoing support will be available to all those who need it, including teachers, parents and families.

The Parent Council offered their support to the school and SS talked through the range of support available. If anyone would like more details on how to access help for pupils or families, they should contact the office or Mr. Steele.

The school has procedures in place to monitor ongoing support needs and will review in 6 months' time. SS will keep the PC updated.

Mobile Phones

The new policy on mobile phone use is in effect and working well. Pupils who are found using their phone have it confiscated and returned at end of day. Parents are notified by text. So far, tracking of this shows that only 1% have faltered on sticking to usage rules.

The staff report a marked difference in corridors between classes and in atmosphere generally. Anecdotally, there is an improvement in personal interactions. There are a range of lunchtime clubs and activities, many run by S6 pupils as part of their SQA Leadership module.

The library is reporting upwards of 70 pupils per day using the facilities to play games and socialize at lunchtimes.

A parent asked if there was any survey done to compare happiness before and after new policy? SS replied that there is a learning and teaching survey done twice a year, which has a health and wellbeing question. This will give us an ability to compare the differences the policy has made. Attendance at clubs is also an indicator.

Exams

Results from the Insight Data which measures results against a comparative school show that the number of pupils achieving 5 + National 5 qualifications is up 10%. The number of pupils achieving 3 or more Highers has dipped a bit, but S6's performance has improved.

Total tariff points are increasing. S3 achieve a National Progression Award Level 5 that counts towards their points in S4. Each qualification earns tariff points which count towards accessing further or higher educational opportunities.

There was general discussion about this and SQA performance will be added to agenda for next meeting.

Staffing

Home Economics

There was discussion around establishing a way to provide cooking skills to young people to replace Home Economics. Could a cooking club be run in the HE facilities at lunchtime? 2 x groups – beginner and experienced. Could there be a preparing to leave home 'cooking for yourself' skills course? It would have to fit with timetable. Could another option be an NPA in cooking skills?

There are small groups doing barista skills and S3 can go to UHI for cooking or textiles for a full day once a week.

Budget is tight because of the formula which is based on the school roll.

Treasurer's Report

The bank account signatories have been changed – new office-bearers are official signatories on account.

Fundraising

There was a suggestion to run a bottle stall at the Christmas Art Exhibition.

Rugby

Nick Cochrane told the group that there is a shortage of younger players for under 14s rugby and he wanted to let everyone know that Lochaber Rugby Club is open to all at school. Training is on Wednesday nights/ Sat morning. There is an after-school rugby club starting, Lochaber Rugby Club has reported a drop in young boys playing. There is SRU funding available for work to support youth rugby. Nick is happy to help with coaching.

A.O.B

There was discussion around the rules over the pupils going out to shops for food at lunchtime. It was interesting to discover that the school does not have capacity to feed all pupils at lunchtime due to size of dining area. This is something that will be looked at further – with a healthy eating working group possibly being set up to investigate this.

Glencoe House – Scottish Water will contribute volunteer days to clear the garden before the new garden is done. There is funding available towards the cost of the garden from Eden Court.

Shona Fleming had sent in a message of thanks and good wishes to the parent council. The parent council extended their thanks to her again.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm. Next meeting is at 7pm on Wed 8 October.