**LHS Parent Council Meeting**

**7th October 2025**

**Present:** Scott Steele (SS – Headteacher), Stephen Stewart, Ali Berardelli (AB - Chair), Laura Kingswood Smith (LKS), Rachel Tonks, Nick Cochrane, Becky McCook, Sara Bellshaw, Belinda Wells, Alison Cameron, Jessica Roberts, Louise Pescod.

**Apologies:** Jane Halewood (JH- Treasurer), Lisa Wharton (Secretary), Charlotte Cant

**Welcome:** The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Previous Minutes:**

Approved by AB and seconded by LKS – to be uploaded to LHS website.

**Treasurer's Report – Jane Halewood:**
Bank account is up and running with new signatories.

Balance in account = £3,016.00

AB explained to new members that the parent council pay for the booking system for parents' evenings.

Insight Report Data
Report presented by Stephen Stewart – SQA co-ordinator.

Stephen provided copies of current Insight data for the school and reflected on attainment within the different school years. Insight uses a virtual comparator, comparing LHS to a similar demographic.

Explanations of tariff points with respect to National 4 =33 points and National 5 = 59 points. The school operates a 'positive presentation policy'.

Areas focused on to improve attainment in the school. The lowest 20% and which groups this includes are Glencoe House students, non-attenders and specialist course groups such as 'My Future, My Success'. This combination can make this data difficult to assess. The school is working to identify who these pupils are retrospectively in terms of additional support needs and attendance.

The 'My Future, My Success' programme for x22 pupils has been changed to 'Lochaber Horizons' this year for x10 pupils. This follows a similar model but uses a multi-agency approach that is organised 'in-house' for pupils that are disengaged with education as identified by guidance teachers. Pupils on the alternative pathway are identified by the school to work with youth development workers, well as taking part in day release college courses on a bespoke timetable. This may involve getting work experience and input from DYW (Developing the Young Workforce). A Lochaber Horizons PT leads it, co-ordinates with

partners and monitor progress. Success is being seen with classes in school calmer and more settled as a result.

A request was made for employers that might be willing to offer work experience. NC to enquire with the Chambers of Commerce. AC suggested media/radio coverage. This is a chance for employers to give something back. Difficulties encountered previously with the time it takes for workplaces to be assessed.

S6 leadership qualification can be taken. The school is being more selective about who can take Open university and UHI courses at this stage due to virtual courses sometimes not being completed in full. The school recognises that performance is better with 'in-person' delivery modes.

SNES data assessment for S3 helps to identify pupils who may need support to address the bottom 20%.

**S4/5/6 Reports**

Parents are still a bit confused by these reports despite the explanations given last year. SS explained that these are government driven and 31/32 authorities use SEEMiS tracking. Highland Council pays for this core package and see the data across the authority. Discussion around targets and pupils and parents understanding of these.

SS explained that the working grade is what the teachers have evidence for and that targets are set by the teachers. Some subjects, such as English, are skills based and may be less accurate as these take longer to accumulate. Other knowledge based subjects like science and maths are accumulative and may show a better measure. The judgements made post-prelims will give the best indication of predicted grades. Pupils get x3 reports a year in October, December and February-March.

It was asked if it could be linked with a parents evening for explanation or a written comments style report but the extra work for this would conflict with the working time agreement for staff. They have tried running an information evening previously, but this was not well attended. Full written reports are given out after prelim results are included. AB concluded by asking "Is there is a better way to present this report?" to parents.

**School dinners and healthy eating**

SS shared average data gathered from the canteen on numbers buying food there:

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|---|---|
| Breakfast | 70-80 pupils |
| Break | 345 pupils |
| Lunch | 360 pupils |

It is not known how many have packed lunches/go home/visit Farmfoods.

Proposal to gather further data. Discussion on loss of Home Economics provision relationship to pupil's understanding of healthy eating choices and nutrition. Following further discussion on the matter AB proposed the formation of a working group to take this forward. Please email Lochaber.high@highlandpc.co.uk if you would like to take part.

**Glencoe House Garden Update**

A request has been submitted for the authority to remove wooden structures and clear the ground. The clearance work is too large for Scottish Water volunteers to do at this stage, Highland Council need to do these jobs first. Staff in Glencoe House to redo the sensory garden.

**A.O.B**

Positive feedback on school dances and ceilidhs for the pupils shared.

Annual data check – Can this be collated by someone in the office? SS will put AB in contact with Marion MacDonald.

School hike – AC commended the achievement of this event.

**Dates of next PC meetings:**

- Tuesday 11th November
- Tuesday 16th December