

Stirling High School Community Partnership Meeting

Monday 30th May

7pm Online Google Meeting

1. Welcome

In attendance Paul Cassidy, Rachel Norman, Claire Bradley,

2. Head Teacher's Report

Head Teacher Update May 2022

Covid

We continue to follow the government's guidelines that have resulted in the reduction in quite a lot of protocols with almost all are not wearing masks., but supported to do so if preferred.

SQA Exams

These have been going very well with our young people conducting themselves in an excellent way especially given these are their first SQA exams. Our new Chief Invigilator Susan Ferrol has been working in partnership with our SQA Co-ordinator Kevin McAdam.

Open Evening

On Tuesday 24th we welcomed parents and carers of S1 and S2 to the school for the first time as a group. This was a very successful night with around 200 visitors shown round by our wonderful S3 prefects. Staff and young people demonstrated examples of learning and teaching and there was a lot of positive feedback. It was great to see the school brought back to life in the evening and this helps strengthen relationships with our families

Uniform

We have been steadily increasing the emphasis on uniform since after the Spring Holidays, mindful that this is at the end of the session, but recognising that we want to return to full school uniform in August.

At the open Evening Rachel supported the issuing of pre-loved uniform items with Annette Devoy and Trona Ballantyne, SRO. Many parents and carers took advantage of the opportunity to get uniform items. This came at the time when we are emphasising uniform in school whilst being aware that it is near the end of term. The standard of uniform has improved greatly and we have thanked our parents and carers for this.

We are also planning a Uniform Café on the morning of Saturday 11th June.

School Photo

We have planned a whole school photo for Wed 31st August. This is the first time in over 6 years. We want to have the whole school come together as a statement of being fully back after such a difficult 2 years.

Staffing

We have recently appointed a new ASN teacher Grant Armstrong to replace Lesley Smith, Grant will start in August. Wendy McQuillan from ASN will cover Hannah Gray's maternity leave and Vicky Cribb will cover Wendy's ASN role. Vicky is currently covering Chemistry and also has an ASN background.

Morven Weir has joined us as PT Social Subjects following Lana Prince's promotion to DHT at Crieff High School.

Timetable

Our timetable changed for new S2, S3 and S4 on 23rd May and our new S5 and S6 come back on 6th June. Paul Downie is the school's timetable and does an excellent job in building the timetable each year to include the breadth of courses on offer and young people's choices.

Curriculum Developments

The school's work in developing create Thinking has been highlighted in a video created by Daydream Believers a partner agency. We are developing the use of the 5Cs though our STEAM hub:

Creativity

Collaboration

Critical Thinking

Communication

Curiosity

We are developing these further through a Creative Thinking Qualification available to S6 pupils who appear in the video. Link in our Twitter feed.

SCQF Recognition

We have also are the first Scottish Secondary to receive the Silver Award from SCQF. Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework that recognises our broad curriculum offering a range of career pathways including Foundation Apprenticeships, Programmes with Forth Valley College, Modern Apprenticeships and others. SCQF created a video highlighting our work that is on our Twitter Feed

Mental Health Workshop

Parents and carers will be notified of a mental health workshop on 14th June with Hannah Gray Principal Teacher of Pupil Support, Sally Izon our School Counsellor and Louise Kennedy Depute Head Teach and Pupil Support Co-ordinator. The workshop will discuss mental health and how we can support our young people.

P7 Transitions

We have returned to our full P7 transition programme. There have been visits by our young people with Additional Support needs as part of their enhanced transition. All P7s visited for a PE afternoon outside in their S1 classes on 19th May. We will welcome all the P7s again for 3 days beginning 15th June, with parents and carers invited on the Friday afternoon.

Thank you

Thank you to Rachel and all of you in the community Partnership for your support and understanding in what has been a very challenging session due to Covid but has still provided us with so many examples of young people's successes.

3. Plans for next year- roles and activities including recycled uniform, support with emails, minutes, next year's chair.

Uniform café, Saturday 11th June- 9-12 Mr Hamilton need volunteers

Offer uniform on Friday 17th June for P7/S1 visits- after school (2:30 – 3:30) again need volunteers

End of holidays when exam results come out (Tues 9th August)so fit around that, perhaps Thurs 11th?

Collect new uniform donations? Yes, good programme but does not run itself. Volunteers to help with this. Rachel to formulate email to drop off uniform, big plastic box drop off at school office entrance and ask for volunteers to get involved.

Also need more general support next year from community partnership members

Events for next year- social aspects? For specific years? AGM- structure of school and school day? What is it like at school? Run café sessions again to get people in.

4. AOB:

PE kit first period? Moving towards higher level of uniform. Uniform brings us together and gives a common identity for our diverse community. If you have PE period 1 it is not the first thing you are doing in the school as young people have form and might have assembly. So might have activity before you get to 1st period. If you make period 1 different how do you stop that creeping into further periods. Also difficult to police. Want to start in August with focus on full uniform.

Communication about staffing changes; "if parents can be kept informed of staffing issues, so if a teacher is off for more than one period in a week then parents be kept informed of this." Staffing was affected greatly by covid and particularly isolation. At one point there were 15-20 teachers off every day with no supply teachers available. This was really bad in March, this was a unique and difficult time. Seniors were preparing for exams. You would be talking about members of staff personal information which would never be shared, so this is impractical. School does utmost to ensure class is covered by someone from same subject and to make sure that appropriate work is being done.

5. Date of next meeting and AGM- theme? AGM 13th September last year,
so **AGM 12th September 2022**