

CRAIGMOUNT HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL AGM

held at St Thomas' Church Hall

Monday 16th May 2016 at 7.00pm

Parent Council Members Present: Alison Bowyer (Chair), Vaman Pujari (Treasurer), Scott Niven, Gillian Smith, Deborah McCall, Janice Reynolds (Secretary), Dylais Mattison, Jane Crewe, Julie Cosgrove, Diane Shanks, Karen McLeod, Gareth Jenkins, Nicola Currie-Millan

Senior Management Team:
Tom Rae (Head Teacher)
Sharon Gibson (DHT/Leader S3 Broughton Campus)
Mike Irving (DHT/SQA Tynecastle)
Shona Wallace (Faculty Leader of Science)

Staff Members: Cat Inglis

Clerk: Marie Allan

1 Apologies: Brenda Cheyne, Stephen Rafferty, Scott Pye

2 Introductions: The members of the Parent Council were introduced to the meeting

3 Approval of Minutes: The Minutes from the previous AGM of 25 May 2015, and previous ordinary meeting of 25 April 2016 were approved.

4 Chairs Report: Appended

5 Treasurers Report: The report was circulated for information. The accounts were audited on 10 May 2016, in advance of the AGM.

Various fundraising initiatives were discussed. Plans for the Corstorphine Fair are well under way. This is the biggest fundraising event for the Parent Council, and it is hoped it will again be well supported by the community. Other fundraising that the Parent Council organise are; 200 Club, and Quiz sales at Parents Evenings.

6 Head Teachers Report:

Tom Rae thanked the Parent Council for all their support during the past year, and in particular for their additional support - in exceptional circumstances - since the Craigmount building closed at Easter. The Facebook page has been an invaluable link for parents to ask questions and find out information. The Parent Council members who are administering this page have ensured that the most up to date information has been displayed there which has been a huge help in assisting communication with Senior Management, and is greatly appreciated. Tom Rae will continue to put regular blog updates on the Craigmount website in the coming weeks.

The decant, although unwelcome, continues to work well. Students are settled and will be spread over 2 campuses instead of 4 by the 6 June.

This will mean the S4, 5, and 6 will all be based at Tynecastle, which allows the delivery of a full senior curriculum for them. Some subjects have a mix of all 3 year groups in their classes in the Senior Phase, so it is essential they are taught together to allow this. Students will be provided with bus tickets and will make their own way to Tynecastle for a full school day.

S2 will move to St Augustine's High which will reduce the travel time for them considerably, and will make the movement of staff between the junior schools easier as they will be sharing a campus. Coaches will still be available to transport between the Forrestine Campus and Craigmount. However, if it is easier for students to make their own way directly there, a letter from their parent/carer will be required to give permission.

Firm assurances continue that the Craigmount Building will be open for students on 17 August 2016. Some Access will be available from 8 August 2016. Contingency plans should this not happen will be looked at nearer the August date. Parents will continue to be kept up to date through Head Teacher's Blog and Parent Council Facebook Page.

7 **Open discussion**

School Decant; There were concerns that S3 students (new S4) were moving again, this time to Tynecastle. It was agreed that they have coped very well with the previous moves. Each of which have provided a more enhanced experience for them, and currently they are having a close to full curriculum based on S3 choices. When the reasoning regarding the move for the senior school was explained, and that a full curriculum will then be in place, parents were supportive of the arrangements. Parents requested some flexibility regarding punctuality for the S3 students as this move might put strain on public transport. This will be monitored. Tom Rae will again communicate with public transport providers to request that additional capacity is available.

ACTION: **Contact Public Transport** **Tom Rae**

Home Study; Some parents were concerned that their young people were getting out of the home study habit. Extra work is available on the website to prepare for events such as 'Snow Days' which students can make use of, there are various educational websites available, and it was suggested that students should be encouraged to read books.

School Uniform Supplier; the meeting agreed to appoint Border Embroideries as the new supplier. Some of the cluster primaries already use them and are happy. The uniform itself will remain unchanged at this time, but it is likely that the Parent Council will revisit this at a future date. As the school looking to develop this area in relation to revising values in line with Rights Respecting Schools initiative.

P7/S1 Transition Days; These will go ahead in an alternative venue. P7 pupils will meet their new classes and key staff. Planning will be underway week beginning 23 May following the Alternative Timetable. Additional time with S6 guides will be given to ensure new students are confident around the school.

Venture has been booked for new S1's

Alternative Time Table; Parents were very appreciative that students were able to enjoy the ATT program. Particularly given the staff effort and goodwill required to organise it.

Business Support Cuts; These continue to cause concern. Decisions regarding the cuts have been put off by the council until September.

School Improvements: Some work has been done to improve the school entrance. However, the doors do not open automatically, and the window to the school office has not been lowered, and neither is therefore suitable for people in wheelchairs. Mr Rae is keen to establish a school identity beginning with the entrance, and spreading throughout the school building. He has also requested additional staff to assist in the summer term, in recognition that the current staff have been put under immense pressure over the last couple of months, and to maintain their wellbeing during the return to school.

Maths National 5 Paper 1; Although considered quite difficult, no content was missed at Craigmount, or our host schools.

8 **Appointment of New Members**

Several new council members came forward. They are most welcome and will be added to the circulation list. The office bearers remain unchanged.

Chair – Alison Bowyer

Secretary – Janice Reynolds

Treasurer – Vaman Pujari

Next meeting in September, Date to be confirmed

Craigmount Parent Council

AGM

Monday 16th May 2016 @7pm

Chair's Report

Matters discussed:

- The main issue this year has been the ongoing school closure and our attempts to help parents get information about what has been going on. Special thanks to Jane Crewe, Nicola Currie-Mullan and Julie Cosgrove Ewing for their help with the Facebook page. We now have about 400 members and hope to continue to use the page for future communication with parents.
- Curriculum for Excellence – ongoing discussion of arrangements for new National exams, including course choices in S4-S6 and targeting support at those pupils most likely to benefit from it. We also discussed how the process went in 2015 with the reduction to 6 subjects at National 4/5 and how that may feed through to Highers this year.
- Reporting - not much progress here although Miss Gibson has been looking into how to improve the reports. I would still like to set up a focus group to consider how they can be improved without increasing the workload for teachers so please get in touch if you are interested.
- Fundraising –the 200 Club has a slowly increasing number of members and we hope many of you will join as it is essential that we raise as much money as possible given the ongoing budget cuts. Also The Corstorphine Fair is taking place on Saturday June 4th and Debbie is looking for donations and helpers on the day.
- Uniform – Mr Rae has asked us to consider alternative suppliers for the school uniform after the problems with Clan House last year and also the increasing costs. Samples are available tonight so please have a look and let us know which you prefer so that we can make a decision before people start buying it for next year.