



Craigmount High School Parent Council – Meeting of Council on 14 November 2022 at Craigmount High School

Meeting Pack

<u>Item</u>	<u>Page</u>
Agenda	2
Minutes	3
Craigmount Update	7
Treasurer's Report	11

CRAIGMOUNT HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Agenda 14/11/2022, 7pm (Craigmount)

1	Apologies, Welcome, Minutes and Matters Arising	AT	19:00-19:05 (5 mins)
2.	Craigmount Update	CM	19:05-19:15 (10 mins)
3.	Staff Presentations - Attainment	Scott Pye	19:15-20:15 (60 mins)
4.	Issues Raised by PC - Industrial Action - Tutor Groups and Class Charts	A Thomson	20:15-20:25 (10 mins)
5.	Treasurer's Report	DG	20:25-20:30 (5 mins)
6.	Fundraising Report	GH	20:35-20:40 (5 mins)
7.	AOB		20:40-20:45 (5 mins)

CRAIGMOUNT HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2022

PARENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

Alistair Turnbull (Chair), John McLeod, Nicola Currie Mullen, Jane Crewe, Lucy Hunter, Claire Labelle, Jeanette Ross, Alison Humphreys, Alison Thomson, Mark Bingham.

PARENT FORUM MEMBERS

Kate Sher, Jane Smith, Melissa Wilson, Julie Gardiner

STAFF

Colin Meikle (Head Teacher), Scott Pye

GUESTS

Cllr Alan Beal, Cllr Euan Hyslop

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Euan Davidson, Dale Graham (Treasurer) Ian Batty and Gilly Herbert

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES, MATTERS ARISING AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The minutes of the previous Meeting were approved. No action points were identified other than those noted elsewhere on the agenda.

Matters arising and updates noted as follows:

- Fundraising - a list of potential projects for funding had recently been received from the school and was to be considered by a separate “mini-meeting” of the Parent Council in late 2022.
- West Edinburgh school plan – a further meeting is to be held but the date is still to be finalised.
- There are still vacancies for a Secretary, Treasurer and Minute Taker – no expressions of interest received since the last meeting.
- School Trips – further feedback has been received from City of Edinburgh Council, confirming that the ongoing moratorium on the organisation of overseas trips is insurance led. Only UK trips will be authorised until further notice. It was agreed to return to this issue in a couple of meetings’ time.

Declarations of Interest – In relation to potential discussions regarding the planned industrial action by teachers, John McLeod declared an interest as an employed Officer with the Educational Institute of Scotland.

3 CRAIGMOUNT UPDATE

CM highlighted the recent evening of celebration which was held in Craigsbank Church, rather than the school, allowing for a higher number of pupils to receive awards and for more family members to attend. It was agreed that this event had been very successful and that the venue was excellent.

S6 Pupils (Ella and Caitlin) updated the Parent Council on the following matters:

- Achievement of an LGBT Gold Charter award.
- Open evening for parents of S1 – S3 pupils, who may not have previously had the opportunity to see inside the school due to COVID restrictions/
- Preparations underway for a Spring/ Summer production of the musical, Bugsy Malone.
- A number of trips and activities undertaken by different year groups.
- New coffee preparation equipment received and installed in the staff room, for the SCQF Barista Skills module.
- Noted that there had now been 850 downloads of the new Craigmount App.
- The roll out of iPad to pupils is now complete and the PC members congratulated the school on the success of that project.

In response to a specific question, CM confirmed that there was no truth in the rumour that Craigmount pupils had been disadvantaged in the 2022 SQA Appeals process as a result of the manner in which prelims had been organised in the 2021/22 session. It was confirmed that Craigmount's success rate in appeals was in line with other schools across Edinburgh.

Also, in relations to prelims, it was confirmed that the ending of exam leave for prelims was a city-wide initiative and that in 2022, Maths and English papers would again be held in the games halls, so as to give all pupils experience of the 'formal exam' scenario.

The new Equalities video was highlighted and praised by those who had already viewed it. Steps are being taken to give this further publicity in order to maximise views. It was agreed to publicise via the Parent Council Facebook page.

4 STAFF PRESENTATION - ATTAINMENT

Scott Pye delivered a detailed presentation on the school's SQA results for the 2022 exam diet.

S4 – results satisfactory. School exceeded its virtual comparators at all levels.

S5 – results particularly pleasing – 35% achieved 5 Highers (previous highest was 30%). As for S4, the school exceeded its virtual comparators at all levels. Part of the reason for the improvement is that there was less encouragement or approval for mid-year drop outs. Previously, some pupils have been encouraged to drop one higher (where they may have been struggling) in order to focus on others. However, academic studies have shown this does not work and the school has tried to move away from this practice.

S6 results are less reliable due to pupils (including some of the most able) taking differing approaches to S6 depending on their vocational interests, University entrance requirements etc. SP noted that the school is cutting back on S6 non-contact time as a key element of increasing school attainment at this level and ensuring that S6 is a worthwhile and meaningful experience for all.

Overall it was noted that the school is in good shape from an attainment perspective and that good data is helping focus attention on the right areas in order to generate further improvements.

It was noted however, that statistics can only assist so far – the emphasis in the school's day to day work will remain on the individual students.

5. ISSUES RAISED BY PC MEMBERS

Industrial Action - Scheduled for 24 November

CM advised that current expectations are that the school will be closed to pupils (and possibly non-striking staff) that day.

It was confirmed that prelims scheduled for that day would be rescheduled to the end of the diet and that (to give certainty to the candidates) this would happen whether or not the strikes went ahead.

CM noted that he understood that CEC would be producing a city-wide update for parents by Wednesday 16th.

Friday Tutor Groups

It was noted that some teachers are giving feedback from the 'class charts' system to tutor groups on an individual basis in a manner which highlights 'negatives' (i.e. those with the most 'reds') in a manner which has been creating tension and humiliation.

CM noted that, whilst the system was evolving, he was clear that this should not be happening. The purpose of the system is to celebrate success. He will take steps to reinforce that the sharing of weekly 'class charts' results is done in a supportive and positive manner.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of DG, a written report was tabled, noting that the Parent Council current had £5,771.05 on hand.

It was noted that some of this amount will be spent once funding applications have been considered as noted above.

7. FUNDRAISING REPORT

No significant new activity reported. However, a few repeat commitments have been received from previous sponsors.

8. AOB

A question was raised in respect of modern languages speaking assessments and why the final assessments were being carried out before Christmas rather than later in the term. CM advised that this was simply a matter of course structure. Plenty of pre-assessment is done in class and it is

considered that doing this in the autumn term allows for concentration on the folio pieces thereafter.

CM asked for volunteers to contact him directly for a focus group in relation to trips and excursions.



*Craigmount
Update*

Craigmount High School

Celebration of Achievement



Celebrate



Craigmount High School

SQA Assessment



Senior Phase Assessment 2022-23



aim high, adapt, succeed



Senior Phase in Craigmount High School?

We are committed to ensuring that all SQA exams whilst providing opportunities for a pupil to demonstrate their attainment within the Assessment window from 21 November to 21 December 2022.

The assessment is organised by column. This will avoid more than one assessment happening at any point between teachers and pupils on the class Team.

Assessments are taking place in each of their subjects?

During the assessment window, teachers will decide when to take place. The assessment schedule has been spread out in a day and allow for a spread of time across the window.

See the Timetable for 2023 which can be found [here](#).

The assessment can be found [here](#).

The assessment which contains the subject, teacher and column (the place). Although the calendar indicates the periods when the assessment take place, this is not an indication of the length of the assessment. Teachers posted on individual class Teams pages will give further details of assessments.

What do the columns mean in the assessment?

The assessment is divided into different 'columns' which determines when they attend the assessment. Monday periods 1 and 2 may be column A. Each column is used for assessments in order to manage the number of assessments in a day or week.

Assessments conducted if pupils are sitting them in class?

Assessments are conducted in a controlled way where bags, phones, etc. are placed at the front of the room. The assessment is paced at the front of the room. Pupils are not allowed to leave the room or photograph them. Pupils should not discuss the content of the assessment with other pupils.

Will pupils be signposted to the topics covered in each assessment?

The assessment in subjects reflects the SQA subject-specific guidance and the assessment often cover a range of knowledge and skills and are not always organised into topics. Teams posts from teachers posted on individual class teams pages will give further information about the specifics of assessments.

Will there be exam leave during formal assessments?

To maximise time in class with teachers a focus on learning, teaching and assessment, means there will be no exam until the actual SQA exams. Pupils should follow their timetable as normal. There may be a requirement for class time to be extended to accommodate longer papers this is noted on the schedule. This is in line with guidance from The City of Edinburgh Council on exam leave.

What will be the focus of the time in class during the assessment window?

Teachers will continue to work with pupils during class time when an assessment is taking place. This may involve (but is not limited to) consolidating parts of the learning, developing a particular skill, working on folio, assignment or practical work, supporting individuals or giving feedback on aspects of the course and/or helping to help pupils progress in their learning.

Assessments take place in larger assessment venues?

A majority of assessments will take place in the classroom during planned class time. Our aim is to give every pupil at least one experience of sitting an assessment in a larger assessment venue. These conditions will mirror the experience of the SQA exams and Application of Maths will experience sitting an assessment in a larger venue.

Feedback will be provided on the assessments?

Assessments have to be marked and moderated before feedback can be provided. For this process can vary depending on the nature of the subject and also the pupils sitting that particular subject. Teachers will advise pupils of the feedback for each of their subjects and feedback at an appropriate time in class during the marking and moderation process has taken place. The results will be indicated in the Marking Report.

If a pupil has a lot of assessments close together will there be an opportunity to review the timetable?

During PSE to create an assessment calendar and study plan so that they can review their assessments this term. This approach is no different to formal assessments which take place in a concentrated period of time during PSE to learning and teaching. It may also reflect the sequence of SQA diet.

What if a pupil is absent from a planned assessment?

Pupils who are absent from an assessment due to absence teachers will work with the assessment. Our assessment strategy has been carefully planned to ensure that it is available for pupils so it is important that pupils are only absent from an assessment if they are unable to attend.

aim high, adapt, succeed

awareness drive aspiration purpose trust

The assessment is designed to provide the maximum understanding prior to assessment. In the assessment spread out across the course of the assessment, our approach to teaching and aims to help pupils progress.

Assessments, how will parents be involved?

Parents will be informed of the assessment arrangements are in place for an identified need and ahead of the assessments.

How will we compare to other schools in The City?

As such, have most control about the assessment conducted aligned with progress in the assessment.

Our approach to assessment which takes into account their context. It is important that pupils in a range of ways, including the assessment.

There are different approaches to assessment across schools about their approach as well as with them. We feel that this is a both an approach to assessment which will support the school to demonstrate their attainment for the SQA exams in April to June 2023.



Craigmount High School

Key Events



Equalities

LGBT Gold
Charter

Open
Evenings

Bugsy
Malone

Tree of
Knowledge

Trips &
Activities

Pupil Action
Groups

SCQF Level 5
Barista Skills

Remembrance



Treasurers Report, 14 November 2022

Treasurers summary & highlights:

- Overview of current funds balance
- 200 Club statement and balances are held by N Currie-Mullan, verbal balance update follows at meetings and Inc & Exp summary is prepared annually for accounts
- Final cash count is performed annually at year end 30 April

Balances at 11/11/22	£
Treasurers Account	4,824.72
200 Club	889.06
Petty Cash	57.27
Total	5,771.05

Grant Applications	Date	Purpose	Amount	Outcome
The Fundraising Committee shall confirm which applications are approved and the status thereof at each meeting	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
Picnic Tables	11/7/22	School grounds	£4,100	Pd to school 28/7

Income to date	Date	Purpose	Amount	Notes
See detailed I&E statement that follows				
Total			£8,213.77	

Expenditure to date	Date	Purpose	Amount	Notes
See detailed I&E statement that follows				
Total			£7,519.75	

Committed spend	Amount	Date	Notes
CHS Wish List – other items for approval	c£tbc	Likely Nov/Dec 2022	Committee to confirm
200 Club spend	c£800	Likely Mar/Apr 2023	Committee to confirm
Total	£(tbc)		