

# **James Gillespie's High School**

## **Parent Council Meeting**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

### **Draft minutes**

This meeting was held using a Microsoft Teams presentation due to Covid-19 ongoing school closures. Questions from parents and carers were invited prior to the meeting and could also be added during the meeting using a moderated chat.

The following are notes of the presenter names, agenda and action points to accompany the video of the meeting held on Teams and available to view at: <https://youtu.be/DJ4a41mna-I> Further responses to questions submitted during the meeting are also available at: <http://jghscouncil.btck.co.uk/Minutesandfiles>

### **Presenters:**

Donald Macdonald – DM (HT), Ailsa Macintosh – AM (Chair),  
Deirdre O'Brien – DB (DHT), Ian Porter – IP (DHT) and  
Laura Stewart – LS (DHT)

### **Moderator:**

Graeme Davis – GD (Communications)

### **Minutes:**

Anna Christal – AC (Secretary)

### **1. Welcome and minutes of last meeting (21<sup>st</sup> January 2020)**

AM welcomed everyone.

The minutes of the last meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020 were approved.

### **1.1 (1.1) Production of JGHS Parent Council banners**

Ongoing.

**1.2 (4) Future allocations of Parent Council funds to be discussed at a Parent Council meeting, following discussions with JGHS Trust Chair.**

Ongoing.

**1.3 (5) DM to invite representative from 'Show My Homework' to future Parent Council meeting**

Ongoing

**1.4 (5) Feedback on current Prelim arrangements.**

Ongoing.

**2. Introduction - Ailsa Macintosh**

Action: All – please email feedback on format of this meeting and use of Teams to [jghscouncilcomms@gmail.com](mailto:jghscouncilcomms@gmail.com)

**3. Overview - Donald Macdonald (0:04:00-0:12:40)**

DM outlined the challenges faced by school, pupils and families.

He noted that information is shared via the Friday email update and school app.

He shared information about SQA and grade estimates; plans for August 2020; reimbursements for school trips and plans for S6 leavers.

DM and all staff presenters emphasised that parents and carers should contact their pupil support leader if there are any specific concerns about engagement, well-being, access to online learning or IT. Parents can also email [admin@jamesgillespies.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@jamesgillespies.edin.sch.uk) and enquiries will be forwarded to appropriate staff.

**4. Online teaching – Deirdre O'Brien (0:12:50-0:24:00)**

DB shared the key messages for online learning, outlined the current position and future plans including a new pupil engagement policy.

**5. Pupil support and well-being – Ian Porter (0:24:15 – 0:30:00)**

IP outlined joint working by pupil support leaders, support for learning, external partners and year heads to support pupils identified as needing

additional support. He also described the role of key adults in monitoring the well-being of all pupils.

#### **6. IT and equity – Laura Stewart (0:30:10-0:34:05)**

LS outlined work to support pupils receiving free school meals and work to provide pupils with IT and other resources to support learning. She noted that parents and carers can self-refer for help if needed via LS or pupil support leaders.

#### **7. Questions and answers (0:34:35-1:11:20)**

See also <http://ighscouncil.btck.co.uk/Minutesandfiles> for feedback on specific and generic questions.

#### **8. Date of next Parent Council meeting - Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020**