**DYCE ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL**

**AGENDA**

Wednesday 20th November 2019 6pm

Staff Room – Dyce Academy

**Attendees**: Kelly Marshall, Kirsteen Sayers, Lesley Adam, Helen Stevenson, Holly, Emma (S6 prefects)

**Apologees**: Alison West, Susan D’Arcy

1. **Welcome by Chair**: Decided that AGM would be postponed till January 2020 due to low numbers. More advertising will be done to try to raise numbers (using back page of “Update” letter, Group Call, Expressions, Twitter etc.) Any ideas for how we can entice more parents to attend are very welcome. Previous minutes discussed and accepted. Lesley to respond to Kirsteen’s email regarding proposed survey on “How safe is our school?” Susan to present recycling update at the next meeting. Alison to bring copy of original constitution in Jan. Kirsteen to ring TSB bank to discuss hand over of account- difficulties in contacting them as no longer open Tuesday and Thursdays.
2. **School Update**: School will celebrate its 40 year anniversary in summer 2020. Has been decided to ask staff, pupils and wider community to contribute to a tapestry. S5 pupil has already done one which has inspired idea. Holy and Emma provided update on the possible new school tie. A few different designs have been drawn up and a survey of pupils’ preferences has been done. Results still to be counted. Kelly updated us on the uniform recycling initiative which is proving a great success.
3. **Senior Phase Reports:** A number of parents had expressed confusion at how different faculties had interpreted and expressed theses targets and what they meant for their child’s progress. Lesley commented that the school have no choice but to use the Seemis system for reporting. Therefore Kirsteen asked if a revision of the cover letter to parents to better explain the meaning of “targets”. Would a recap of staff training be possible to ensure all faculties are using them in the same way? For example, has everyone interpreted Target Grade as the target for this monitoring period only or as the final target to be achieved in May? Pointed out that it was essential that these are user friendly as the purpose of the report is to communicate child’s progress to pupil and parents.
4. **Study Leave for Prelim Exam Jan 2020**

Helen queried that situation regarding removal of prelim study leave. Lesley explained that this brings Dyce in line with other city academies- many pupils not sitting N5 (those studying for N3/4/ NPAs) have no external exam. Also, these exams are no longer “Estimates” as the appeal process no longer exists. Now only possible to request a remark rather than provide evidence of higher achievement at Prelim. However, school recognises that sitting a prelim or “mock exam” is still an invaluable experience as it may be the first time that pupils have had the opportunity to experience the exam hall and to sit concentrating for lengths of time in this context.

Second concern raised that if pupils have a maths exam in an hour’s time, but are sitting in an English class, will provision be made for them to revise? Lesley explained that lessons during these periods would take the form of targeted revision classes.

1. **A.O.C.B**

Sam Main is looking for parental involvement with Street Sport on Tuesday evenings. School will advertise this through “Update” newsletter.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 29th January 2020**