

Deans Community High School
Parent Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday 26 January 2021

Attendees

Angela Ritchie (Chair), Pauline Allison (HT), Stephen Small (DHT), Mark Cockburn, Sandra Fannon, Patricia Miller, Heather Marriot

Apologies

Caroline Bennett, Janice Ritchie, Stacey McCallum

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Review of the Minutes from previous Meeting
4. Head Teacher's update

AGM

1. Chair's Annual Report
2. Election of Parent Council Office Bearers
3. AOCB

1. AR welcomed all to the meeting.
2. Apologies as stated above

3. Review of Previous Minutes

Previous minutes were accepted.

4. Update from HT

Remote Learning

PA reported on the progress of the remote learning to date and the evaluations conducted on this. These included surveys to parents/carers and students, discussions with teaching staff, observations of digital lessons, and discussions with students.

Student and parent/carer surveys received indicate that around 75% of S1 and S2 students feel they have the correct volume of work. However, the number of students who feel they are being given too much work increases further up the school to 33% of S3, 35% of S4 and 48% of S5. This falls back for S6 to 22%. In all year groups, the vast majority of students feel that the difficulty level of the work they are being given is appropriate. This was also reflected in the discussions with students.

During the lesson observations the quality of learning and teaching was very high and in each case the teacher was communicating with students in some way throughout the lesson. In all lessons, this was done using live audio for at least part of the lesson, with some lessons retaining this throughout and others breaking to give students time to work on given tasks.

During focus group discussions, senior students indicated that they felt they did not have enough time to complete tasks in lessons where the teacher was live streaming throughout, whether this was audio or video streaming.

Taken together, the evaluations appear to indicate an imbalance in the current learning provision, with S3-S5 students not having enough time to work effectively. This led to the change made as follows: teachers should allocate at least one period per week to S3-S6 students' working independently; S1-S2 teaching would remain mostly as is at present.

Parents' Evenings

Virtual Parents' Evenings will begin on 4th February. Parents will be emailed instructions on how to book appointments and join the meetings.

Reports

Reports are continuing as planned, following the new reporting system agreed earlier this session.

Staffing

Mrs Murray (English dept) and Mrs Blackburn (Computing dept) are leaving after the February break.

5. AGM

The Chair's report was discussed and all were in agreement that this gave a true and accurate account of the Parent Council's work over the past year. Thanks went to AR for producing this and for her stellar work as Chair.

6. Election of parent Council Office Bearers

The following positions were nominated and confirmed for the coming year:

Chair: A Ritchie
Secretary: S McCallum

7. AOCB

- Course Choice – the process was discussed and PA confirmed that information would be sent to parents and students this week.

Date of next Parent Council Meeting (AGM) will be on Tuesday 23 February 2021 at 18:00 via Skype for Business.