

Deans Community High School

Parent Council Meeting Notes

Monday 28th March 2022

Attendees

Angela Ritchie (Chair), Pauline Allison (HT), Mrs Bleach, Miss Riddell, Gillian Campbell, Eddie Carson, Sandra Fannon, Laura MacMillan, Caroline Bennett, Janice Ritchie, Ann Edwards

Apologies

Patricia Miller

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Review of the minutes from the previous meeting
4. Parental engagement
5. Connect Information Sessions
6. Head teachers' update
7. AOB

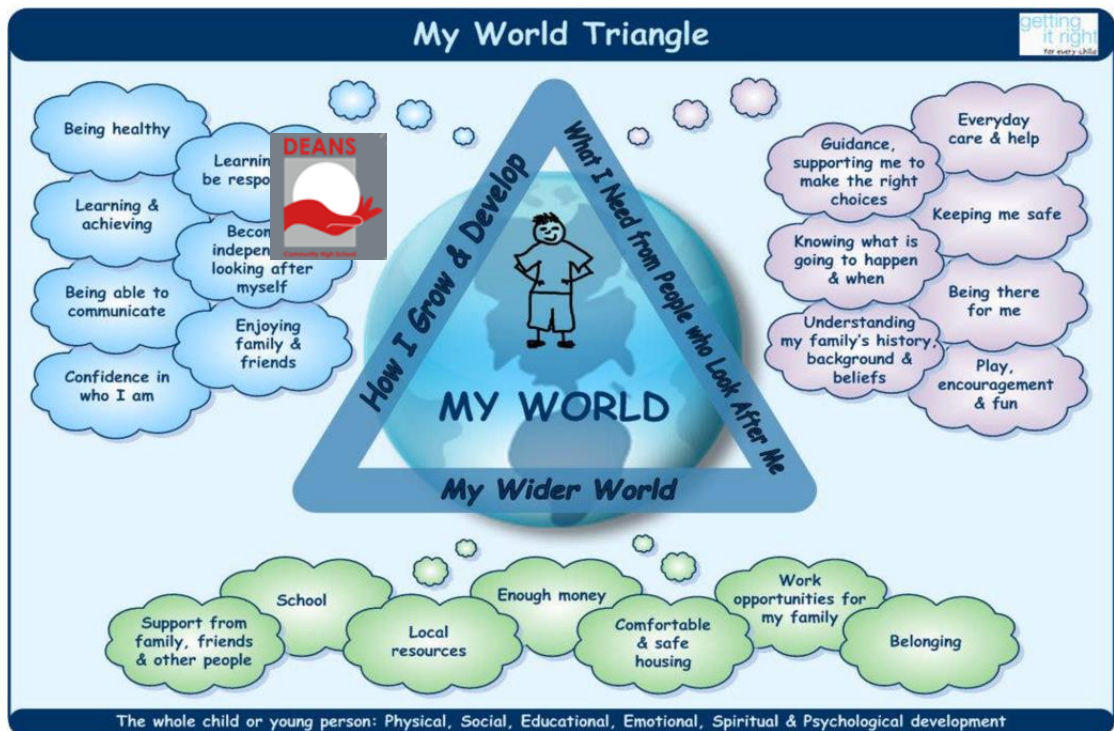
1. & 2. Welcome & Apologies

As above.

3. Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted by all attendees

4. Parental engagement

- Angela discussed the ideas for the poster which were circulated by email prior to the meeting. The idea is to use this format, replace the "My World" with the Deans logo, and detail the outside agencies that the school work with. (very rough & ready mock up below!)



Everyone agreed that this was a good idea. Next steps are for Angela to think about the content and design with Gillian's support.

- Angela shared the parent council statement that Caroline prepared for Seafield Primary. Whilst most of the content is covered in the one page poster, the action for everyone is to think about any further information that would be helpful to include within the poster.
- We agreed that a parent council email address is to be created to allow parents to get in touch with the council should they not be able to or want to attend meetings. An email address will be created within the school, an admin person will be appointed to monitor the mailbox and direct queries to the named parent council member. Caroline suggested that we make it clear when publicising this option that parents should not email with questions or concerns about their children. This could also be contained within an auto response on the mailbox.
- In addition to the promotion of the parent council within the school, we'll look to promote the council with feeder primary parent councils. For parents with children in P7, they may be more likely to engage in attending the Deans council when their child transitions. Pauline will contact the Head Teachers of the feeder primaries for details of their parent councils. We can then invite parents of P7 pupils to the council meeting at the end of May so that they can see first-hand what we do and what is involved.
- In line with the lifting of Covid restrictions, after Easter it is likely that Parent Council meetings can take place in person within the school. This provides flexibility to have some meetings virtually and some in person which may also increase attendance. The

callout with using Teams as the new platform for meetings is that the link needs to be sent to named individuals rather than available to all who want to join. The approach to virtual vs in person meetings to be discussed further in the next meeting.

5. Connect information sessions

Angela couldn't attend the Connect Information sessions however they have sent on details of what was covered which she'll share with the members.

Eddie attended the session that covered the purpose of a parent council and how to connect with parents. Key findings were that all parent councils have the same challenges regarding membership and that there wasn't anything suggested that we're not already doing or that we didn't already know. It was suggested that the parent council link in with other family groups however it isn't clear what other groups this could include. There is a further session on 29th March which Eddie is attending

6. Head Teachers' update

Staffing:

3 probationers have been offered and accepted permanent contracts:

- Jo Neilson (Home economics)
- Kelly Smith (Business Studies)
- Chelsea Welsh (English)

Leavers:

- Kirsten Smith (English) is going on maternity leave in May
- Stacey McCallum (Biology) has been offered an Acting PT Science post at the new school in Winchburgh and is likely to leave early in May.

Study Sessions:

- Easter School – sessions are available for nearly every subject at every level. As there is still the chance of disruption for example if a teacher gets Covid, they will alert students via their Teams channel on the day so that students don't attend.
- Supervised study sessions have been well attended and appreciated by the students

P7 Transition

This will take place in person this year and the children should get the full experience, similar to pre-Covid. Stephen Small will be asked to attend the next meeting to give an update on arrangements.

Plans are also being made to have a parent's information session for current P7 pupil's parent, and S1 and S2 parents, as they've not had the same opportunity to visit and be in school due to restrictions. It was suggested that the Parents Council have a table at the parents' session to promote the work we do and increase membership. No date has been agreed yet – Pauline will let us know when confirmed to give as much notice as possible.

Covid testing

In line with government guidance, there is no longer the requirement to carry out twice weekly testing and so this will be the last week of the school giving out test kits. The school still has plenty available for children to collect this week.

7. Any other business

Caroline: An ask that teachers be mindful of giving pupils some headspace prior to the exams that are taking place before May, for which there is no study leave. The example was given that the pupils were going from one class straight into the exam without any time.

Angela: Question on whether or not students can take less than the suggested study leave. It was confirmed that they can take less however if they come into school, they may be unsupervised but they would be given a place to work. For some subjects the teachers will run emersion sessions in the lead up to exams where the pupils can complete past papers – the teacher will let the pupils know about these but putting a note on teams or a group call may be sent.

Next meeting

7pm Tuesday 26th April via Teams. We'll look to have the May meeting in person and invite members of the feeder primary parent councils.