

## **Trinity Academy Parent Council Minutes 7<sup>th</sup> June 21**

### **Intro:**

Welcome and thanks to all for attending from Mike. Outlined agenda for HT update w Q and A, but moving on to PC focus on school-home communication, and community profile of school.

### **HT update:**

#### **Bangholm sport centre development/phase 2**

Good progress phase 1 – minor planning issues re substation – 2 weeks behind original schedule. Steels laid 14/6/21, planned photo opp with PC reps/school pupils. Ongoing community engagement, in particular Design Engineer Construct students at school and others, touches on Developing Young Workforce agenda. Cricket pitches to be retained plus indoor facilities – increased provision cricket for TA plus community in future.

Phase 2 – main change is agreement from Historic Environment Scotland that de-listing the 60's tower would be possible thereby opening up the way for plans for this to be demolished and the space used as part of the rebuilt. Therefore the Victorian building would stay and be refurbished with the rest of the site available for development.

Mr Burge HT will be main liaison from the Senior Leadership Team team re school build – he is keen to represent school/pupil voice.

#### **SQA/Alternative Certification Model**

3<sup>rd</sup> round assessments completed and catch-ups almost finished (for pupils who had to self isolate etc). Quality assurance process follows. Provisional marks will be released on a date agreed by City of Edi LA (this was confirmed in the weeks after the meeting as being Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> June). Info on formal grades/appeals process will come with this. Mr Burge has been meeting with Mr Campbell (DHT with responsibility for SQA) plus CL's - early indicators are results are in line with historical patterns/analysis looking at data over several years. SQA coordinators from schools met with senior council officers/SQA officers today so there may be further updates coming from this.

#### **Reviews**

Two reviews underway, curriculum, and vision and values. These will also help inform the plans for design of new school building. Parents/carers will be ask for their participation in the autumn term and there will be focus groups.

#### **SQUIP (annual improvement plan)**

Submit post August – next year plan focuses on: inclusion and equality; curriculum; learning, teaching and assessment (inc digital learning).

#### **School Return in August**

Mr B pointed out with Covid things still change almost weekly or fortnightly – schools are continually adapting to change and local Covid factors. No change to current school day/covid mitigations at least till Sept weekend ie staggered breaks/lunches/school start and finish, outdoor break and lunch unless extreme weather. There is a push for increased uptake lateral flow device testing as whilst this is voluntary numbers appear to have tailed off and this can only lead to potential missed cases.

## **Q and A to Mr Burge:**

### **Results day information – any more info?**

Date of release of provisional results tbc by local authority – expect this to be during last week of term. SQA send formal grades to learners mid August like usual. Provisional result from school will be result of collation of assessments and evidence over the course. ACM is not meant to be barrier to professional discretion of teachers, or to young people achieving as expected given the year of disruption they have had – schools have small margin of flexibility around grade boundaries to take into account the circumstances of this last academic year. [in the week following the meeting it was confirmed that results would be released on 23<sup>rd</sup> June and will be in the form of a provisional grade]

### **Virtual open days (uni and college)**

New S6's can attend these in school time either from home, or at school – d/w PSL if need device and wifi to participate.

### **Discrepancy around post exam attendance S4/5/6**

Lack of clarity across LA re pre/post exam for senior phase pupils – this year no study leave was granted. New S4's in particular mostly moving onto several Higher courses so should be in class as scheduled. The new timetable will begin in the week commencing June 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **New House System**

Query re break up friendship groups – Mr B explained no individuals will be moved, instead entire registration classes will be allocated to the new house. Having 4 houses from Aug 21 means pupils should receive PSE taught by their nominated PSL.

Mike thanked Mr Burge for coming to the meeting, and as ever for giving time to update us and to answer questions direct from parents.

We moved on to discuss 2 potential areas for the PC to focus on as we move on a bit from covid.

### **Communication:**

Mike reflected on what is communicated school-pupil-home, and how: pupil progress, policies, coursing, announcements and opportunities etc via text, email, App, letters, bulletin, reports.

### **What works well at present?**

Very strong consensus that HT weekly update is working well: reliable, regular, not too long, good precis, warm and empathic tone, audio version available, has filled a lot of previous communication gaps.

Group call working going better – used to be just one nominated parent, but now >1 parent/carer can receive texts/email communication.

Mike noted 2 way communication pro-actively between him and Mr Burge most weeks has been great, in advance of HT update – PC can help feedback and raise things for HT to comment on.

Some comments that it's important to have more than one channel of information as people like to receive info in different ways. Communication in general felt to have significantly improved at TA.

### **What could be improved?**

School app – filter settings not working for all – deluged with information that may be irrelevant. Pupils do not routinely use App which school need to be aware of.

Twitter – not felt appropriate for communication to pupils/parents (but sometimes useful sports comms eg frozen pitch notification).

Too many channels – fear of missing some information.

Website – outdated, as school 'shop window' not attractive or informative to prospective school parents/pupils. Outward facing platform for school. (it was noted that at present the current school community is the priority – some reconfiguration has happened eg important covid info on home page).

Consider re-visit previous PC suggestion to have start of year group (end summer term with change timetable) letter highlighting key timelines/events eg work experience, coursing, Duke of Edinburgh awards – gives 'heads up' in plenty of advance to young people and families. Allows them more time to consider plans for useful work experience, plan around holiday dates etc.

Mr Burge noted how much the school has missed having assemblies with learners as way of coming together and communicating key messages. School promoting use of Teams as channel for learner-school-teacher communication.

Email and App are the 2 key ways of communicating with school for parents/carers – reinforce this to new and existing families. Mr Burge noted that he will make enquiries about filter settings at school end – messages should make clear which year group applies to. School will be revisiting website in future.

### **Community Profile of School:**

We had group discussion regarding community view of TA. Noted previous and ongoing PC/parent body efforts to pro-actively publicise TA to local cluster primaries – word of mouth, stalls at summer fairs, PC chairs/HT attending cluster primary PC meetings, new S1 handbook produced by the PC a few years ago.

Mr Burge said this has had a positive impact – TA is currently full for S1-2 with some placing requests turned down at appeal – and at the other end of school only 2 places in S6. Some feeling that community doesn't know much about what school stands for – lack of identity?

Lack of strong uniform code influences some views. Only takes small minority of pupils' behaviour eg litter, to sway community perception.

Feeling that school does not publicise its strong wider achievements of pupils plus leaver destinations. Some in community amazed that TA pupils go on to all sorts of destinations including Oxbridge.

### **Things that might help:**

Strong identity – vision and values

Positive Community impact eg litter pick by S2's recently, music, volunteering

Advertise FP leaver destinations and attainment, and wider success stories – many have no idea of what TA pupils can and do achieve in all walks of life

Improve website – visuals, success stories, positive

Learners to promote school

Continue working on links with clusters – eg senior pupils mentoring, PC links, transition,

### **Other Matters**

We moved on to final final queries from parents and PC business:

Music update – unfortunately given rise in covid cases mid May onwards no further progress at present.

Future PC Meetings – v briefly Mike touched on how to approach in future / mixed in person/online meetings. Very keen to consider how to make PC more representative – large number families/carers do not have English as first language. To discuss more in future.

Finance: Treasurer reported £3950 in PC account.

Mike concluded the meeting by thanking Lisa for running the 50:50 lottery for fundraising, Matthew Perren for support/IT with PC meetings, Liz, Steve, Susie, Morag and all those who helped participate in recent PC work – plus all those who took part in parent bank focus groups.

### **Provisional meetings for 2021-22**

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October (AGM)

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June