



**FORRES ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL**

c/o Forres Academy

Burdsyard Road

Forres

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**FORRES ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL MEETING**

**Monday 28 January 2019 at 6.30pm**

**Room B1 at Forres Academy**

1.	<b>Welcome from Chair</b>	<b>Actions</b>
2.	<p><b>Present</b> Elizabeth Watson (Chair) (EW), Mhairi Donald (Treasurer) (MD), Nick Clark (NC), Lesley Coutts (LCo), Siobhan Evans (SE), Heather Hatch (HH), Miles Hatch (MH), Norma Matheson (NM), Jill McGhee (JM), Mags Price (MP), Mary Summerscales (MS), Alison Reilly (ARe), Sarah Theman (ST), Jan Sinclair (Head Teacher) (JS), Claire Feaver (Councillor) (CF), Lorna Cresswell (Councillor) (LCr), Diana McPartlin (Secretary) (DM) - minute taker.</p> <p><b>Apologies</b> Claire Downend (CT), Ann Rossiter (Staff Representative) (ARo)</p> <p><b>Resignations</b> Neil Webster and Anna Webster have resigned from the PC</p>	
3.	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting</b> Approved.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Correspondence</b> We have received a letter from Vivienne Cross Head of Schools and Curriculum Development advising Parent Councils that if they wish to respond to Moray Council budget proposals then comments should be directed to elected members in their wards.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Moray Parent Forum</b> EW did not attend last meeting on DYW. The next meeting is on 20 Feb 6.30pm at Elgin Academy and will be about technology and internet safety. It is for chairs of the Parent Council, but anyone interested can go.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Treasurer’s Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expenses: £36 for website.</li> <li>• Balance: £2,379</li> </ul> <p>MD noted that we shouldn’t keep funds in the bank as the money has been raised for the purpose of spending in the pupils interests.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Communications sub-group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A meeting was held on 7 Jan and a number of issues were raised with JS who responded by email and met with DM and EW.</li> </ul>	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HH will post guidance on how to use our Facebook page and encourage people to come to the PC and sub-groups.</li> <li>• Website and PC logo           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- JM will be our new website editor.</li> <li>- JM presented four designs for a PC logo and the majority voted for a puzzle design in the school colours.</li> <li>- JM asked for feedback and suggestions for the website and said that she will put a link on the page so that people can contact her.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Staff photos            There has been a request on Facebook for photos of staff to be put on website. JS has responded that this would not be feasible. HH asked if there could be a board inside the school with photos of staff. JS said it was possible, but staff may not agree and they couldn't be compelled to do it.</li> </ul>	<p>HH</p> <p>JM</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><b>Fundraising sub-group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AR and HH met with pupil council to ask what they wanted their funds spent on. The responses were:           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Funding for after school clubs</li> <li>2) 5/6th year common room with microwave and kettle</li> <li>3) Seating in social areas</li> <li>4) plectrums for music department</li> <li>5) Audio books</li> <li>6) Seating at buses (this has been ruled out for safety reasons)</li> <li>7) Table top games</li> <li>8) Boys football team (they were advised to speak to Mrs Rossiter)</li> <li>9) Team building for Senior Students</li> <li>10) Things to help build relationships in S1 /S2- not just Within their classes</li> </ol> </li> <li>• ARe will order plectrums and left-handed scissors, and give them to the school</li> <li>• HH will talk to librarian about supplying table top board games and audio books.</li> <li>• JS suggested new photographs of the students for the corridors and give the corridors a facelift. CF suggested a photo competition. JS suggested it could be part of folio work for photography students.</li> <li>• JS suggested CCTV cameras (in addition to those already outside toilets). The pros and cons of CCTV cameras were discussed.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is this something the PC should raise money for or should council provide these?</li> <li>- If cameras are on specific areas, will this mean that</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>ARe</p> <p>HH</p>



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	<p>the trouble moves elsewhere?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cameras can prevent bullying and make the kids feel safe.</li> <li>- Cameras make kids feel like they are being spied on.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Basketball court</b> The fundraising group will look into the feasibility of this. Issues raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funding could be from Berryburn Windfarm.</li> <li>- Maintenance costs must be considered.</li> <li>- The criminal justice system workers will do the work for free, but we'll have to raise money for materials and equipment.</li> <li>- Costing would have to be from approved contractors.</li> <li>- JS will discuss with Fiona Grant from the council.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• We agreed to put labels on items PC has donated to say that they have come from the PC.</li> <li>• NM and DM will join the fundraising committee, and a request will be put on Facebook for more members.</li> </ul>	
9.	<p><b>Attainment</b></p> <p>JS gave a presentation on attainment. She showed us the SQA results for S4, S5, &amp; S6 as analysed on the national benchmarking tool, Insight. All Moray schools, including Forres, have had declining results over the past five years. Forres is not as bad as the Moray average but is underperforming in relation to its Virtual Comparator (a benchmark based on similar socio-economic demographics). Our lowest 20% are performing very poorly, the middle 60% and top 20% are better but still less than the VC, which indicates that overall Forres Academy is underperforming.</p> <p>JS outlined the following strategies for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Short-term Jan 2019 - Sept 2019. Offer extra support to those who need it. The school can boost its Insight point score by giving credit for DYW, Duke of Edinburgh awards etc.</li> <li>- Medium-term Jan 2019 - 2020. Help pupils make the best choices. Give credits to non-academic skills, eg a child who performs well in the physical side of PE may be given a Higher credit for practical skills but not the full Higher. Training for staff how to understand Insight and how it measures results.</li> </ul>	



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	<p>- Longer-term 2019 - Sept 2022. Change working time agreement to allow time for discussion on attainment with departments. This may include target setting, monitoring and tracking.</p> <p>NM asked how employers are going to view this. JS responded that they are working with employers to help them understand what the credits mean. NM commented that it had to be something meaningful for the pupils not just about raising the school's attainment score. JS responded that this was beneficial to the pupils. LCo asked why the results in Moray were declining. JS said there were many reasons.</p>	
10.	<p><b>Head Teacher's Report</b> Head Teacher's Report is on the website.</p>	
11.	<p><b>Extra Curricular Report</b> Extra-curricular Report is on the website.</p>	
12.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LCr noted that Town Hall committee would like to make more use of the town hall to develop arts, drama and filmmaking, and that it could potentially be used on Friday afternoons.</li> <li>• LCr is checking to see if there is a school uniform charity that parents can be referred to.</li> <li>• LCr said that a number of parents had been in touch about Active Schools being cut in budget. Issues raised include the problems of poor health and obesity, and suggestions have been made for fund raising.</li> </ul>	
13.	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b> Monday 29 April at 6.30pm in B1</p>	