

**Wallace High School PTN**  
**Minutes of meeting held 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 19 January 2016**

**1 Attendees:** Jennifer Bairner, Karen Dunn, Kitty Gallan (Chair), Alison Gow, Jackie Gee-Faulkner, Donna Harris (Depute Head Teacher), Sandra Hayashibara, Eve Kidd, Fiona Lafferty (SDS), Janet Lafferty, Wendy Mackinnon, Caroline McEwan, Alison McGregor, Scott Pennock (Head Teacher), Jane Riley, Sarah Shaw, Peter Smith, Pamela Steel, Isabel van Weert

**2 Apologies:** Maureen Firth

**3 Welcome from Chairperson (Kitty Gallan)**

Kitty Gallan introduced a presentation by S6 pupil Jamie Dunn and Fiona Lafferty from Skills Development Scotland about the My World of Work website. Jamie explained that the website had been redesigned with the aim of making it easier for young people to use with less text and a fully responsive design – optimising and restructuring itself to the size of screen/phone/device being used. There were different sections giving help on choosing subjects, choosing university courses, modern apprenticeships, careers advice, job profiles, job vacancies and volunteering. The website provided excellent information for parents too and for example could reassure them about career opportunities for their children following a particular degree. Pupils could personalise their account on the website entering their details, undertaking personality testing, adding skills, qualifications and interests and building a CV.

Attention was also drawn to another website Digital World Scotland which highlighted the massive skills shortage in Scotland with particular skills needed such as software development, data analysis and cyber security.

Peter Smith went on to give an update on the national ‘Developing the Young Workforce’ initiative. He explained that the Government had a seven year plan to develop the employability of the young work force. They were working with pupils, teachers, the Council and employers to improve youth employability, employer engagement, champion vocational pathways and work-based learning. The School had formed partnerships with employers such as the Prudential as part of this initiative and also held careers fairs each year with employers such as FES attending. Social media including Twitter was being used to disseminate information with actual jobs being advertised on @WHS-Futures. The aim was for an individual employability plan for each pupil. There were careers advisers at the School who targeted the higher risk pupils but any pupil could make an appointment with them. Careers and Apprenticeships fairs were held in the School each year with lots of employers attending and with guest speakers from organisations such as the NHS. There was also a Higher Education Fair held each year at the University attended by all the universities and colleges. The aim was to help pupils make good choices.

**4 Matters arising from last meeting**

- The PTN was thanked for all its work in organising the successful Ceilidh and Miss Steel was thanked for arranging the performances by the dance groups.
- The School was looking at options for a covered bicycle area at the School for the next working session taking into account the cost, appearance and need to consult with FES.
- There was a community bulletin board on the School PTN website

- Show My Homework would be introduced for the new School session starting in May with a full School roll-out by August. Staff training had been given.
- The online lunch card system should be starting in the new session (August 2016).
- Extra seating had been ordered for the atrium area with the aim of making better use of the space and a more attractive environment.
- The Advanced Higher Maths class was now having 6 teaching sessions a week, up from the previous 2.
- The 33 period week would start from May. There had not been many comments from parents – the main concern being the late lunch on two days - but there had been mainly positive feedback and any problems would be dealt with as they came up.
- The Mental and Emotional Health Programme 'It's all about me' was launching this week, 18-22 January 2016 with activities running throughout the week and then would be continuing through the following calendar year. The aim was for the recognition of mental and emotional health as being just as important as physical health. This was part of a pilot programme which, if successful, would be rolled out nationally.
- BBC Ten Pieces was producing three events in Scotland with Wallace High School being one of the Schools chosen to participate. The BBC would be working with the School orchestra and pupils would also be involved in filming and sound production.
- Wallace High School would be the launch School for 'Champions in Scotland' on 23 February 2016. There would be Olympic athletes and the Minister for Sport visiting the School with S1 being particularly targeted. The School would be presented with the Gold Flag on the same day.

## **5 Treasurer's Report**

The Winter Ceilidh had raised just under £2000 all of which would be donated to the Young Carers' Ocean Trust programme with the PTN covering the costs of the Ceilidh from its funds.

## **6 Communications Report**

The PTN website had been updated and information was also available through Twitter and Facebook.

## **7 Head Teacher's Report**

- Thanks were given to everyone who contributed to the Ceilidh.
- The School website was being upgraded with a fully responsive design so it would be easily accessible for pupils and parents from tablets, phones etc. The PTN section of the website would also be improved and made more accessible.

## **8 Any Other Business**

- Provision of music tuition in schools was currently being considered by the Council.
- The Council was demanding more savings. Comments could be made on the Stirling Council Priority Based Budgeting Report on the Stirling Council website.
- The PTN was looking for new Committee members and office bearers – Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Communications. Anyone interested in taking any of these positions should come to the next meeting or let the PTN know via email, or the link on the PTN website or Facebook.

## **9 Date of next meeting**

7.00 pm Thursday, 24 March 2016.