

WALLACE HIGH SCHOOL PTN MEETING

26 August 2021 at 7PM

Online via Google Meet

Attendees:	
Emma Torrance, Chair	Eve Kidd, Treasurer
Rachel Blackburn, Communications	Kate Buchanan, Uniform Bank
Fiona Atkinson, Ochil House Rep	Karen Dunn, Secretary
Scott Pennock, Headteacher	Donna Harris, Depute Head
Sapna Bhogale	Tor McKay
Sandra Sankey	Karen Morrison
Paula McColl	Joanna Panese
Kerstin Doig	Emma Kirk
Sarah Shaws	Helen Young
Arthur Yarwood	Nicola Smith
Karol Nowacki	
Apologies:	
Diana Morgan	Antoaneta Dimitrova
Mhairi McKinlay	Shumela Ahmed
Maria Sanchez	

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (18.05.21):

- Fiona Atkinson and Kate Buchanan seconded the PTN meeting minutes from 15.03.21.
- Chair thanked Rachel for arranging the ice-cream donation from Graham's Dairies to last year's S6 Leavers' celebration. Emma also thanked Kate for all of her hard work with the Uniform Bank and thanked Rachel for promoting it.
- Chair informed the group that a parent from Ochil House, Claire Donan, has requested that the PTN apply for charitable status and gift aid in order for the group, particularly the Ochil House committee, to apply for grants for amounts upwards to £10,000. The group approved the request and Nicola Smith and Joanna Panese have volunteered to help Fiona and Claire with the application
 - **AC:** Nicola, Joanna, Fiona and Claire to exchange email addresses.

3. Matters Arising:

- None

4. Treasurer's Report:

Overview of 2021 Accounts provided by Treasurer:

- £1200.00 in the bank; the Uniform Bank took in ?;
 - A Finance Mtg was attended by Emma, Eve, Mr Pennock and Mr Ramsay. Parent Pay was suggested as a tool for parents/carers to pay small fees like the cost of a bus for a school trip, sports event, locker fees, etc. There is plenty of notice given for big trips and the cost can be paid up front or over a period of time but it might be helpful to list only the costs relevant to each child on their parents page. Emma proposed a survey to ask parents/carers about small fees.
- **AC:** Mrs Harris to ask for donation requests from staff;
- We will look at ways of fundraising in the next school year; Sandra offered to help;
- Mr Pennock made some requests:
 - The Duke of Edinburgh team requested £216 to purchase 4 transient sove, £60 for 4 waterproof trousers and £24 for first aid supplies. The group agreed to donate £216.
 - The Cycling Club(Mountainbikes) requested £180 to purchase 3 specialised lights for night time cycling from Halford's (£60 each). The group asked Mr Pennock to get more information before making a donation. **AC:** Mr Pennock.
 - Fiona asked for a small contribution towards purchasing a bicycle for Ochil House. The group agreed to donate some money once Fiona provided the information. **AC:** Fiona to provide info about the bike.

5. Uniform Bank:

- Kate stated that the Uniform Bank has been very successful. She asked Mr Pennock if the school Conference Room is suitable to store it for now and Mr Pennock agreed that it was currently suitable. We will need to find another location as the Conference Room begins to be used more frequently with the lifting of covid restrictions.
- Kate mentioned that Stirling University wants to feature the Uniform Bank as a feature story as they are looking at stories about recycling.
- **Reminder:** If anyone would like to make any donations they can be dropped off at a collection bin at 14 Queenshaugh Drive, Riverside, FK8 1XJ. Please place washed items in a carrier bag - all gently used uniform items, school sportswear and shoes in clean condition are welcome.

6. Ochil House Report:

- Fiona thanked the group for the £50 to the S6 garden party last year. The party was a great success;
- There is a new teacher, Mr Laing, in the unit as well as a new SLA, ;
- Next week the Senior children will start to access facilities outside of school such as Green Routes and the college;
- The mainstream teachers are able to teach in Ochil House again;
- The Ochil House pupils are slowly accessing the mainstream school
- We had our first Ochil House parents meeting last night. We hope to arrange for a representative from Active Stirling to attend one of our future meetings, to share with the parents some of the activities which are available for the children to access;
- Fiona mentioned to Mr Pennock that there have been a few safety issues with the taxis and cars at dismissal time and near misses with pupils crossing the Ochil House access road and asked him to remind the pupils and the staff supervising to be more vigilant;

- Emma added a thanks to Mr Ramsay for monitoring the traffic and the buses and the staff for monitoring the disabled spaces. Hopefully parents/carers will continue to be mindful of pupils and traffic flow during drop off and pick up times.

7. Headteacher's Report:

- **Introduction:**

- Mr Pennock offered thanks to all the Wallace families for your support in the pupils' return to school. He stated that he was very pleased with uniform, attitude and effort for the vast majority of our pupils and very good pupil, staff and parent feedback on how they have settled into the new term. The school roll is currently just over 1,150, with 220 new S1 pupils.

- **Staffing Update:**

- Mr Downie leaves us as DHT on Friday 17 th September and his permanent successor will be appointed on Tuesday 14 September. Emma, our PTN Chair, will be part of that interview panel. For any Acting transitions period, Mr MacLeod has been appointed and there will be a consequent back-fill appointment to his post soon.

- **S6 Graduation:**

- Thank you to the PTN for the ice-cream donation to the S6 graduation celebration.

- **Protocol Update:**

- We anticipate an update soon on planned changes to protocols following the initial 6-week period but are glad to return to school uniform and the full suite of curricular and wider activities. Our Freshers' Fayre next Friday will advertise a full range of planned clubs in school, but sporting, music and wider creative experiences are already up-and-running. This already makes it feel like the richer, fuller in-school experience that we really enjoy.
- Parents should be aware that there is a change to Covid self-isolation protocols for schools and that this is now, largely, managed by the NHS. If your child has symptoms you should book a PCR test and follow the NHS advice. Close contact to positive cases no longer necessitates class contacts automatically self-isolating. The key advice to follow is that if there are symptoms or a positive case identified in your home, contact track and trace and follow their instructions for the positive case and any consequent household requirements (testing; self-isolation etc.).
- In terms of planned events etc., we will be able to review this after the initial 6-week period. We have a back-up plan for online parents' evenings if these cannot be in person. We will be having these in-person if we can. In terms of events etc, we will revisit wider planned events when we know what any restrictions will/will not be. Mrs Harris will now update on Senior Awards plans.

- **Celebrating Success Senior School Awards:**

- Mrs Harris provided an update on plans for celebrating success for the Seniors:
 - Sadly, an in-house celebration has to be on hold so multiple small groups will be organised to celebrate the awards;
 - Over $\frac{2}{3}$ of the year groups will receive "Commitment to School Values" with the new 5th year pupils receiving silver badges and the 6th years receiving gold badges. Academic Excellence goes to 5 x As at Nat 5 in S4 and for 5 x Highers in S5. The Head Teacher's Award in S5 is for 5 x As at Higher. Subject Prizes are awarded to those who have the top mark in the subject and Legacy Awards are given for achievement in a variety of areas;
 - The celebrations will take place on the 16th and Jim Mailer, local photographer, will take photographs of the award winners on the 20th September and those pupils will be given their photographs as a gift.

- **SQA/Assessment Period Update:**

- In terms of SQA attainment outcome measures, schools need to wait for Insight publication for national comparator measures and each of the last two years has been very distinct. In terms of broad measures for last session, however, some key stats are as follows:
 - S4: 42.5% of pupils achieved 5 National 5s, against a five-year historical average of 39%;
 - S5: 28% of pupils achieved 5 Highers, against a five-year historical average of 20%; 50% achieved 3 Highers against a historical average of 36%; and 67% achieved 1 Higher against a historical average of 56%;
 - S6: 26% achieved an Advanced Higher, significantly up on historical averages. The assessment calendar has been active throughout this very busy period;
- In terms of SQA for this session, the Scottish Government has expressed an intention that we should plan for examinations and that this will be the intended route, with further details to follow. All of this is dependent on the situation with Covid 19. We will, therefore, be working toward this but also mindful of on-going evidence capture as good practice in an uncertain context.

8. AOB:

- Emma asked if the S6 Champions would be starting. Mr Pennock confirmed that they were underway and that all of the departments had a variety of programmes in which the S6 pupils supported younger pupils with either tutoring, mentoring, charitable work and supporting P7 transitions.
- Emma also asked for an update on the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. Mr Pennock explained that it is a challenge for the school to catch up after lost time and it may take about 2 years but on a positive note, they are planning the expeditions.
- A few parents asked to be updated on the triple periods. Mr Pennock explained that triple periods were used to cluster pupils and avoid movement in the building for covid and they were found to be useful for planning lessons particularly those subjects involving labs, etc. Mr Pennock said that the staff ask for feedback from the students. The Juniors like movement and the seniors liked that there is less disruption and added to the flow and focus of lessons. He added that the junior periods are largely single or double now and the Triple Model is used mainly with the S5 and S6 timetable. Overall, pupils and teachers gave positive feedback about the Triple Model and it helps with planning the college time. After October and Christmas, Mrs Harris will coordinate pupil voice feedback regarding the Triple Model. Mr Pennock assured the group that the teachers do provide movement breaks.
- If there are any issues or concerns parents/carers should contact the school as the staff are always willing to help. The PTN are also available to offer support. **It is important to note that there are only 2 phone lines into the school office so please email the school if the phone is not answered.** Someone will reply/respond to the email.
- Kare welcomed the new S1 pupils and also asked if the group could offer a message of support to the Forth Valley Welcome group.
- The group thanked Mr Pennock and the staff for providing a positive start to the new school term especially under continuing limitations and offered thanks to the new S1 parents and the other parents for attending the meeting.
- Mr Pennock thanked the parents/carers for all of their support and enthusiasm.

Date of Next PTN Ordinary Meeting and AGM
26.10.21, 7-8pm
Venue to be confirmed, possibly online