

Lornshill Academy Parent Council



Meeting Summary: Online Parent/Carers Get Together

Date/Time:	Thursday 27 th August 2020– 7pm	Location:	Google Meet
Meeting Host:	Helen McNaught (Parent Council)	Attendance:	46
Meeting Guest:	Mr Black (Head Teacher)		

Introduction:

The purpose of the meeting was to give S1 parents the opportunity to meet Mr Black and for Mr Black to share information, seek our opinions and answer any of our questions as Lornshill recognises there's been a lot of anxieties and concerns about pupils returning to school.

Lornshill's 'New Normal'

Mr Black began with an overview of Lornshill's 'new normal' and new daily routines that have been introduced this term.

- Leading up to the start of term there has been 3 Health and Safety visits to ensure that all Covid protocols are correctly in place
- Before the school day begins, S1-3 wait outside at the front of the school and S4-6 at the other side of the assembly hall. Each year group is welcomed by the Management Team and hand sanitisation is supervised as the children enter the building. This has been a good opportunity to welcome everyone and say Good Morning.
- Tutorials have been removed from the timetable to accommodate everyone getting to their Period 1 class and this has been extended by 10 mins.
- During the course of the day, bells between periods and at break and lunchtime have been removed and this is working well. Teachers allow classes to go at their discretion and this prevents all classes from entering the corridors at the same time (and makes them a lot calmer) and helps with the flow of young people around the school. There is also a one-way system in place in the corridors with everyone facing the same way.
- In classrooms, all the children are facing forwards, where possible, and the teacher has a designated teaching space.
- All faculty areas have hand sanitisation stations. Staff have sanitisation resources to wipe down equipment and tables.
- There are daily tannoy reminders to maintain social distance and sanitise hands regularly.
- Each year group has a separate area for break and lunch. S1-3 are in the hub, S4 are in the Assembly Hall, S5 are in the PE department and S6 are in the Café.
- For the well-being of everyone, the school has requested that all young people stay on the campus during Break and Lunch and urge parents to give their support with this.
- Lockers are not yet in use as the logistics of cleaning them have not been worked out. It would also go against the one-way system and the lockers are in the area that S6 use for lunch.

- Catering – the Senior Management Team will be meeting with catering staff to discuss introducing hot food. This information will be passed on to parents as soon as possible.
- Buses – Michael Boyle (Clacks Council) will be working with the campus police officer to check safety protocols are being followed.
- At the end of the day, young people are asked to use correct exits and pathways.
- Parents are asked not to use the Car Park to maintain safety for young people and staff.

Parent / Carer Questions

Mr Black moved onto answering pre-submitted questions and the questions posted in the meeting chat.

Covid Protocols and Cold

What is the school's Covid protocol if a child is unwell?

- If the child is unwell at home, the parent/carer if concerned should seek GP/NHS advice and make a decision about whether or not to send the child to school.
- If a child becomes unwell at school, they will be taken to a designated area in the school where one of the SLT will assess the course of action required. If it is felt necessary, the parent/carer will be asked to collect their child and take them to be tested.
- There are also protocol procedures in place if vulnerable children or staff are exposed to someone with symptoms.
- There is an increased cleaning schedule in place in the building and surfaces are wiped down regularly throughout the day.

If there is a positive test result for someone in the school, how do parents find out if their child has been in contact with that person?

- Test and trace will contact those involved.

My child has cold, can I still send them to school?

- Parents are asked to use their own judgement. If they don't have covid symptoms (high temperature, new persistent cough or loss of taste/smell) but have typical cold symptoms, such as a runny or a blocked nose, they can go into school if they are feeling well enough to attend.

Facemasks

How will the wearing of face masks from 31st August be handled within the school?

- Face masks will have to be worn in corridors, social areas and buses. Young people will be encouraged to wear one as part of the uniform.
- Snoods with the school badge and colours have been purchased for every child at no cost to parents.
- If young people want to wear a black mask (with no logos) that's ok too.
- The bus operator will not enforce the wearing of a mask on buses. The school asks for parental support with this.
- If there are children with hearing difficulties who experience problems with wearing a snood/face mask, parents/carers are encouraged to get in touch with their child's Personal Support Teacher regarding this.

Home Learning

If a young person has to self-isolate, will learning material/teacher support be available online to them?

- All staff are back full time now and their timetables are organised to give them preparation/marking time for the classes they have.
- The school and Senior Leadership Team are in discussion with teacher unions as to how children self-isolating at home can be supported.
- It is hoped that by the end of the year there will be an S1-6 curriculum for home and school.
- It was 'suggested' by parents that the school changes the times of the school day (3pm finish Mon and Wed) to allow teachers additional time to prepare online learning and provide more support to pupils learning from home. The majority of parents agreed that we needed to compromise and support the school as pupils could be forced to self-isolate at any time (and on multiple occurrences) and need access to learning resources. The school is hoping to consult with parents on this approach soon.

SQA

What are your thoughts on the SQA issues this year and will there be more assessments this coming year?

- Lornshill has responded to the consultation regarding concerns around assessment, course content and exams at the end of the year.
- Mr Black thinks exams will go ahead but perhaps with some changes eg. shorter exams, less project/folio content to be submitted. Regardless of what the changes are, the school will plan accordingly and will share the information with parents/carers once it is decided.

General Queries

When will normal PE lessons resume ie. Schools of Rugby, Football, Dance etc?

- The latest government advice on this will be given on 29th August. There will be no change to indoor sport.
- Nat 5 and Higher PE are being allowed to use all the changing rooms for one class to give more room. Some PE classes will start from mid- September but not indoors.
- The focus of PE is about Health and Wellbeing

What is happening regarding reimbursement of monies already paid for trips that have been cancelled?

- This is currently 'in the hands of' Clackmannanshire Council's Legal Service who are dealing with refunds.

Will Parents' Evenings go ahead?

- Due to restrictions, it looks likely that the 3rd year parents' evening scheduled for September won't go ahead.
- Reporting of pupil's progress may be adapted to take the form of a summary report for parent / carers with the option of being able to contact individual departments by phone if there are any queries.

Could there be an online parents' evening?

- At the moment protocols aren't in place to have this.
- This is not just an issue for Lornshill, it is a national issue which needs to go through the teacher unions to agree to it.

When will S2s catch up with vaccinations?

- It will be up to the NHS to contact the school once their vaccination program resumes.

Is it possible for Senior Pupils to arrive or leave early if they don't have classes first or last thing?

- Mrs McMaihin is looking at this as it would help not having so many people entering or leaving the building at those times.
- Once the senior timetables are finalised, a decision about this can be made.

Date for your Diaries

Thank you to all the Parents / Carers who joined this meeting and asked questions prior to and during the meeting – we hope you found it useful.

Our next online 'Parent/Carers Get Together' is on **Thursday 24th September at 7pm.**

The meeting will follow a similar format and is a great opportunity to find out what's happening in school and get your questions answered.

We hope you can join us on the 24th September.

If you have any queries, please email us at lornshillpc@gmail.com