

## Membership/Attendees in the last year:

Our 2019 / 2020 meetings have been well attended and we have welcomed new Parent / Carers of both S1 and existing pupils.

Formal posts within the PC are held by; Helen McNaught [Chair], Will Hensman [Vice-Chair], Gillian Goodwin [Treasurer], Linsey Ferguson [Secretary].

School Staff in attendance during the year - Mr Black [HT], Mr Murray [DHT], Mr Clancy [DHT], Mr Scruton [Parental Engagement] and Mrs O'Donnell [School of Environment].

## How you can get Involved:

- Any Parent / Carer with a child at the school may become a member of the Parent Council.
- Just come along to one of our meetings. We meet approx. every 6 weeks in the evenings, and always welcome new members.
- Dates of all meetings will appear on the School App and Website.
- We know that Parent Council meetings aren't for everyone and that not all Parents / Carers can spare the time, so if you are unable to make a meeting, just contact us and give us your thoughts.

## Message from PC Chair

On behalf of the Parent Council and all Lornshill Parents I would like to thank all the teachers and staff at Lornshill who have worked tirelessly and with dedication over recent weeks and months to set up Google Classroom, deliver online learning to our young people, and also for supporting both pupils and families during this difficult and uncertain time.

## Contact Us

We want to represent and support all Parents / Carers across the school and we can only do this effectively if you let us know what you want - email us, speak to a member, come to a meeting and tell us, or connect via Facebook / Twitter.

If you would like to contact the Parent Council, you can do so in the following ways:

By email: [lornhillpc@gmail.com](mailto:lornhillpc@gmail.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/LornshillAcademyParentCouncil/](https://www.facebook.com/LornshillAcademyParentCouncil/)

Twitter: [@lornhillpc](https://twitter.com/lornhillpc)

By Letter: Drop a note into the office, addressed to the Parent Council

## Finally...

We want all Parents / Carers at Lornshill Academy to get involved in what's going on at school, because when Parents / Carers and Schools work together, **KIDS DO BETTER!**



# LORNSHILL ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL



**Annual Report 2019-20**

## OUR YEAR AS PARENTS & CARERS

## What is the Parent Council?

We are a group of Parents who voluntarily act on behalf of the whole 'Parent Forum' (all those who are Parents, Carers or Guardians of a child at Lornshill). We aim to represent the views of ALL Parents and Carers at Lornshill.

## What does the Parent Council do?

We link with the school via regular meetings to have input into the issues that the school is dealing with, whilst being a voice for ALL those in the Parent Forum.

- The school uses us as a sounding board for new ideas and developments to get feedback from a Parents perspective before they are implemented across the whole school.
- We help the school to understand how they can effectively involve Parents / Carers in their child's learning and in the life of the school.
- We can help Parents to resolve problems by pointing them towards the correct methods of contacting the school
- Most importantly, we support the school and the Headteacher to achieve the school's Improvement Priorities.

## Our Year as Parents

We started the year with a successful Cake and Coffee evening and welcomed new and existing parents, many of whom have regularly attended meetings throughout the year.

Our PC meetings have focused on the Schools Improvement Priorities and have provided an opportunity for parents to feedback and influence the school's decision making process. At each meeting Mr Black, the Head Teacher, has given us an update on a range of topics. Amongst the topics discussed have been:

- the general running of school (events, staffing, procedural changes)
- how the school communicates with Parents / Carers and how this vital connection can and should be improved (please download the Lornshill App).
- the school's impact on Pupils, Parents, Staff, and the wider community.

We have had discussions with Mr Scruton on Communication, Parental Engagement and have fed into the 'Home Learning' Policy. Mrs O'Donnell updated us on the fantastic achievements of the Eco Schools Team, gaining Lornshill its Green Eco Flag and becoming the first 'Carbon Literate' School in Scotland.

Finally, as we approach the end of what can only be described as an unprecedented year, we are seeing the education of our children change in a way which we would never have envisaged possible. We have watched 'in awe' at the way our school community has pulled together to support our young people and families during this difficult time, whilst ensuring our pupils continue their learning, albeit from home.

Our P7 transition has also moved online, with a virtual tour, daily learning activities, staff introductions and information for parents.

We have also changed the format of our PC meetings in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020 we held our first online PC Meeting and this year our AGM will also be held online. This has provided us with an opportunity to consider how our meetings will be held going forward to enable parents to attend meetings either in person or 'virtually'.

Our priority in 2020/21 will be to support the school through the 'recovery phase' of returning pupils back into the classroom, along with the challenges a blended education may pose, i.e. where and when pupils attend school, whilst continuing both home learning and online learning.

## Parental Engagement

Throughout the year Parental Engagement has been a key focus for Mr Black.

- All Parents are surveyed termly to gain our thoughts on specific areas within the school and our feedback is taken 'on board'. As a result we have seen changes to the 'location' of Parents Evening appointments and the introduction of an online booking system.
- Prior to the current lockdown, Mr Black had planned to consult with parents on changes to the school day and the opportunities for joint learning across the 3 secondary schools.
- Mr Black and Mr Clancy have meet with Parent groups to seek their thoughts on Progress; the pupil monitoring and tracking database, to help the school understand what we as Parents / Carers want to know about our child's progress.
- We ALL have the opportunity to influence positive changes within Lornshill, so please remember **'Your Voice is Important!'**

