

Lornshill Academy Parent Council



Meeting Summary: Online Parent/Carers Get Together

Date/Time:	Thursday 12 th November – 7pm	Location:	Google Meet
Meeting Host:	Helen McNaught (Parent Council)	Attendance:	45 (6 apologies)
Meeting Guest:	Mr Black (Head Teacher), Mr Arnold (Depute Head and Head of S1)		

Introduction:

The purpose of the meeting was for Mr Black to give us an update on what's happening in school, including any covid related issues and Public Health Scotland's (PHS) process for identifying pupils needing to self-isolate through close contact at school.

We also asked Mr Arnold to give us an update on changes within Pupil Support and the introduction of the Pupils Services Support Hub.

Parents were asked to submit questions in advance of the meeting and encouraged to ask questions in chat during the meeting.

General School Update from Mr Black

Mr Black passed on his appreciation that so many parents had joined the meeting.

- The start of the new term has been very busy for the Senior Leadership Team. It has been focussing on maintaining the pace of the Learning and Teaching that has already taken place this session and Mr Black is determined that this will continue to improve and that pupils will continue to make progress.
- Newly Appointed Staff – a Home Economics Principal Teacher has now been appointed. A temporary History Teacher of has been appointed today (12/11) and interviews for an English Teacher will take place next week.
- The changes to the timetable, including the early finish on a Wednesday are working well for Staff and Pupils.
- There have been some issues around pupils not wearing masks on the school buses. The bus company has been asked to manage this on the buses and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) are meeting the buses as they arrive at school to address any issues. Mr Black asked all parents to encourage their young people to wear their face coverings on buses.
- In recent weeks there has been an average of 3 members of staff absent due to self-isolation. Classes have had cover teachers which has been challenge but is being managed.

SQA Update

Mr Black provided an update on the latest guidance from the SQA which focus on gathering evidence for National 5 courses and the school now has a draft plan in place to ensure all work is assessed and moderated. Final guidance for Highers and Advanced Highers is now expected towards the end of term:

- S4-6 is coming to the end of Phase 1 of the Senior Assessment Phase.
- The November In-Service Day will be used by teachers to gather evidence of learning in S4-S6.
- Assessment Phase 2 will follow at the beginning of January 2021.

- The February In-Service Days (February) will be used to cross check evidence gathered, and verify marking.
- There may be an additional assessment phase in March to ensure sufficient evidence is gathered to validate Teacher predicted grades.
- External verification will take place with teachers in the 3 secondaries collaborating to cross check evidence.
- All evidence is expected to be in place by April/May. Markers and verifiers have been identified across the 3 secondaries to support teachers in evidence gathering.
- Mr Clancy (DHT) and Faculty PTs will meet soon to review the results of the Phase 1 Assessments. Parents will be informed of pupil progress through the upcoming summary of learning for S4,5 and 6.

Procedure in School for Identifying Pupils Who Need to Self-Isolate

There have been some concerns raised by parents around the process for identifying which pupils need to self-isolate. Mr Black was asked to clarify the process.

- The school is guided by Public Health Scotland (PHS), who will decide which pupils need to self-isolate.
- If a pupil tests positive the school will receive a phone call from PHS informing them of the pupils.
- The school holds seating plans for all classes. Seating plans for each class that the pupil is in are sent to PHS along with names of other pupils who have been in close contact during the day. Social mixing at break and lunch time is also taken into account, as well as known school transport contacts. There are no seating plans on buses, therefore if parents are aware that their pupil has been a close contact on school transport they are advised to contact the school for guidance.
- PHS reviews the information provided by school and identifies which pupils need to self-isolate. The school is then informed of these pupils and contact is made with families, to inform their child has been identified as a close contact.
- Everyone will receive a general letter about there being a positive case in the school and those who have to self-isolate will also receive a more specific letter with guidelines on how this should take place. The letter will also give a return to school date.
- During the first 2 cases the school contacted parents/carers to check on pupils. Mr Black encouraged all families to contact Pupil Support with any concerns relating to self-isolation or if pupils do not have technology to access Google Classroom.

Parent/Carer Questions - Covid/Self Isolating

Are windows in classrooms still kept open? It can get cold if sitting beside a window are pupils allowed to wear coat in the classroom?

- The guidance is to keep classrooms and areas well ventilated. If a child is cold put on a coat. Phone the school and this can be addressed.

Can the School stop pupils from leaving the school grounds at lunchtime and going to the local shops / van?

- No, but pupils have been asked to bring a packed lunch so there is no need to leave school at lunchtime to buy food. Mr Black asked all parents/carers for their support to encourage pupils to stay in school during the Lunch breaks and follow the guidance in place.

Is there any progress with providing hot meals at lunchtime?

- These are now being made available for pupils receiving free school meals from Monday 30th November 2020 and with the colder weather coming in, the school is pressing for wider availability. Mr Clancy has had meetings with the catering staff about this so hopefully this will happen soon.

Will the school issue guidance to clarify what is meant by self-isolation?

- The school will follow the official guidance from PHS and would encourage parents to do so too. However Mr Black advised Parents /carers have to make the decisions as to what is right for their family.
- <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-test-and-protect/pages/how-to-self-isolate-effectively/>

Will the school issue information on the support available for pupil self-isolating?

- Additional information will be issued relating to work being available on Google classrooms, Free School Meals payments, etc.
- Mr Black encouraged parents/carers to get in touch with the Pupil Support if they need any support or advice.

How will work be issued/posted for pupils who are self-isolating?

- Work will continue to be issued on Google Classrooms. All pupils have had access to Google classroom this since March and access it through their school Glow account.
- The school will be trialling Google notification emails to inform parents/carers of work issued.

Some S1's are currently self-isolating; there was a discrepancy with the dates between the School text and PHS letter. Please can the school clarify dates?

- Mr Black to check and confirm dates.

How will absences due to self-isolating be recorded?

- It will be recorded as *Medical/Working from home*. Attendance will not be affected.

Mr Arnold (Head of S1 and Depute Head)

Mr Arnold is Head of S1 and also responsible for Pupil Support. Mr Arnold shared with his remit for this session and what he hopes to achieve this session.

Mr Arnold meets weekly with the Pupil Support team and they are working hard to get pupils the right support when it is needed. Mr Arnold outlined the recent changes that have been made to Pupil Support:

- A Pupil Services Hub has recently been set up within Pupil Support. This is on the 1st floor near the Citizenship Café.
- Pupils are encouraged to go there if they require assistance or need to speak to their Pupil Support Teacher.
- Learning Support Assistants also attend the Pupil Support team meetings and are based in the Pupil Services Hub so are also available to help with issues and enquiries that arise as they.
- If a parent/carer phones the school to speak to a Pupil Support Teacher they should select Option 3. The call will be directed to Pupil Services Office who will take a message and pass onto the Pupil Support Teacher, who will return the call as soon as possible. Mr Arnold reminded parents that the Pupil Support Teacher may be dealing with a crisis / pupil issue which may impact on response times. Any other phone call enquiries eg, to report a pupil's absence, should still select Option 1 (Office).
- The weekly Pupil Support meetings will identify any pupils whose parents will be spoken to immediately if they phone Pupil Services.

- The weekly Pupil Support Team meeting has recently reviewed Attendance and there have been some changes in the way the absences will be dealt with over the next 6 weeks: -
 - Pupils will be registered at the beginning of each period. If a pupil arrives more than 10 mins late to a class, a text will be sent to their parent/carer, to inform the pupil is absent.
 - When a pupil arrives late in the morning, they will be asked to go to Pupil Services rather than going straight to class.
 - The message to pupils is that they have to make sure they are registered for each class.
 - This new arrangement is helping to keep a better record of who is in/out of school throughout the day and absences are now reacted to straight away. This is also helping to reduce the number of pupils arriving late to school / classes.
 - There have already been lots of positives arising from these changes but Mr Arnold asks that parents bear with it. A survey will be sent out towards the end of term asking for parent/carer opinions.

Parent /Carer Questions – Pupil Support / Progress

Mr Arnold has also been working on bringing the PROGRESS app online for S1 parents/carers. He was happy to answer questions about this.

Why has PROGRESS not been updated with comments for all subjects?

- As the year progresses, teachers will add more comments.

Is there a plan to meet S1 parents?

- The S1 Parents Evening is planned for February, as with previous years.
- Due to restrictions placed on visitors to school, the recent S3 parents' evening was cancelled and replaced with a written Summary of Progress which was posted out to parents/carers. The PROGRESS App was also updated with these comments. If parents/carers have any concerns about learning they are encouraged to get in touch with Pupil Support or Year Head.

Is there a way to receive alerts when PROGRESS is updated?

- Mr Arnold will check if this is possible and keep parents/carers informed.

Is there any update about access to lockers?

- S3 will be able to use their lockers next week. Access for other year groups will be phased in with everyone having access by the end of the term.
- S1 pupils will have the opportunity to hire a locker.

Are pupils able to sign up for extra-curricular activities?

- These aren't taking place at the moment but will when we can. Mr Black hopes that *Learn with a Latte* (after-school study class) will be able to return soon.
- Curriculum extra-curricular activities will be the first ones to start up eg. Science Club.

Thanks from Mr Black

Mr Black thanked everyone for the fantastic turn out and for the positive input from parents/carers. These meetings enable the school to understand parent concerns and your feedback helps to shape continuous improvement within the school.

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 14th January at 7pm.**

Meetings are a great opportunity to find out what's happening in school and get your questions answered.

Information for Parent/Carers interested in attending future meetings

Meetings are being held online (in Google meet), they are informal, you can keep your camera / mic switched off and just listen, you can type questions in the chat box or ask them yourself.

We hope you can join us on **Thursday 14th January at 7pm.**

Contact Us

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