



Lornshill Academy Parent Council

Meeting Summary: Online Parent Information Sharing Session

Date/Time:	Thursday 24 th September – 7pm	Location:	Google Meet
Meeting Host:	Helen McNaught (Parent Council)	Attendance:	33 Parent/Carers 7 Apologies
Meeting Guest:	Mr Black (Head Teacher), Mr Burrell (Acting Depute and Head of S3)		

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 as there's been several legislative changes since our last meeting; when we discussed Lornshill's 'new normal'.

We also asked Mr Black to give us an update on the proposed changes to the school day.

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

Parent Council Updates

Stationery Appeal

- Following a request from Mr Black, the Parent Council ran a 'Back to School Stationery Appeal' over the summer to ensure all pupils had access to their own stationery. We were 'blown away' by the fantastic response to our appeal, which enabled us to donate more than 1,000 stationery sets to the pupils.

Sauchie to Lornshill Path

- The path between Sauchie and Lornshill is almost complete, the lamp posts are up, but they haven't got the lights on them yet.
- Works is also ongoing on the path between Lornshill and Glenochil.

Covid Protocols Update from Mr Black

- The processes and protocols that have been put in place to support the well-being of everyone within the school are running well. There haven't been any issues so far and most pupils and parents are being supportive of them.
- More hand sanitising units are expected to be delivered and installed in the school soon to help with the required, regular hand sanitising process.
- The PE timetable is now up and running according to guidance.
- Up to date guidance for Home Economics, Art and Music has been received today (Thursday 24th Sept) and it is hoped that it can be put in place by Term 2.
- There has been lots of positive feedback about the snoods that were issued to staff and pupils. More are being purchased and will be available at cost price (approx. £1.50/£2.00) if anyone needs to replace one.

Parent/Carer Questions – Covid Protocols

Are there any plans for temperature checks to be taken on entering the school building?

- 2 x Forehead thermometers have been ordered.
- Temperatures will not be taken as pupils enter the school; due to the high numbers entering the school at the same time,
- Temperatures will be taken as 'a quick check' only if a child becomes unwell in school and only after contacting parent/carers to seek permission.

Consultation on Changes to the School Week

Mr Black provided an update on the consultation to change the school week; to build in capacity for Teachers to prepare online learning materials. This change was suggested by parents at the previous meeting.

- The intention is to provide high quality online learning materials for those pupils that may need to self-isolate and continue their learning from home. There is a need to build in additional capacity into the teacher's week to enable them to develop online learning materials and monitor the progress of those pupils learning from home.
- The consultation is still open and will close on Monday 28th September.
- The proposed changes are :-

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

- Same start time
- 5 mins reduction in lunch
- 5 mins earlier finish in the day
- Friday period 6 extended to 55 minutes for a 3pm finish (due to constraints with school buses)

Wednesday

- No tutorial,
 - Period 1 starts at 8.55am (same school start time),
 - 10 min reduction in lunch, earlier finish time (latest finish time due to constraints of the school buses)
- There will be no significant changes for staff - they will still be working the same hours.
 - This time would be used to develop digital learning for use through the Covid period but also for beyond that, when learning returns to normal.
 - To date there has been 184 responses – 174 agreed, 10 disagreed.
 - The changes would be in place for the rest of the school year.
 - A further consultation is planned later in the school year to align the school day with Alloa and Alva to enable closing working and Senior phase curriculum sharing.

Parent/Carer Questions - Consultation

What subjects would be affected with the shortened day on a Wednesday?

- For Period 7 on a Wednesday the whole school has Personal and Social Development. This would now be rotated each week throughout the rest of the year so would still be in place.

Will there still be enough time for everyone to have lunch?

- Yes, when the proposed changes were being discussed, the Senior Leadership Team observed and timed lunchtime and it is possible. It will actually help with behaviour management. Other Secondary's have also introduced a shorter lunch break (30mins) this year.

Will there be a longer wait for buses on a Friday?

- Period 6 on Friday would be extended to 55 minutes to avoid having to wait for buses.

SQA Update

- Mr Black has been taking part in consultation meetings with other HTs and SQA Coordinators across Scotland.
- They have been asked to consider 3 scenarios-
 - if the current situation continues, what would the contingency plan be?
 - if there was a local lockdown, what would the contingency plan be?
 - if there was a national lockdown, what would the contingency plan be?
- The school is also considering the logistics of exams. With current guidelines in place, the school would struggle to accommodate large exams eg. Nat 5 English has 200+ pupils. SQA Guidance on this has been requested.
- Helen has also taken part in the SQA Parent review session, looking at the impact of cancelling exams this year.
- Schools are expecting to hear by the end of the October break as to what changes have been agreed in each of the subjects' examination arrangements.

Parent/Carer Questions - SQA

Does the school have procedures in place to gather evidence of learning should teacher estimates of grades be needed again?

- Yes, faculties are building up continual evidence of pupil progress. Pupils and parents will be kept informed of progress made. This will also be available through PROGRESS. Also, 'a cause for concern update' will be introduced for senior phase parents and carers.

Mr Burrell (Acting DHT)

Mr Burrell shared his role for this school year and what he hopes to achieve.

Mr Burrell is responsible for Transition from Primary to Secondary. There are 3 parts to this:

- **Tracking and Monitoring progress** – ensuring a consistent approach within each cluster primary. Working with the HTs of each cluster primary. Looking at progress in P7 just now but hoping to extend to P5. To introduce 'Progress' as a possible tracking system throughout the cluster to enable cluster wide sharing of pupil progress.
- **Improving Transition process** – making it more beneficial to pupils. Working with Mr Arnold (Head of S1) and other staff to change the transition process to have it at different times throughout the year. Starting to collect information from P7 teachers so that Lornshill teachers can go into local primaries to support children. This would start earlier in the year and happen throughout the year.
- **Raising attainment** - begin to identify key strategies that work in raising attainment and use them cluster wide.

Parent/Carer Questions and Comments

If a pupil doesn't attend a primary school in the Lornshill catchment, will they still be included in transition activities?

- Mr Black would prefer them to be but this isn't the case at the moment.
- Lots of parents commented that P7 transition this year worked well (S1's attending on the first day back was felt to be beneficial in helping them settle in). Mr Arnold will be sending out a survey to gather information about individual experiences of this to establish what can be kept for future P7 transitions.

General Questions and Comments

Mr Black moved onto answering questions posted in the meeting chat and questions asked by Parents.

Are there any plans in place to help ASN children to catch up?

- There are groups up and running this week for anyone who has been identified as needing extra support to catch up. If parents are concerned or have any questions they should contact Head of Year.

Do pupils have access to their lockers?

- S5/6 are currently allowed to access Lockers. This is working well and will be extended to S4 prefects next week.
- School are hoping to extend access to lockers after the October break but there will still be limited use eg to store jackets at the start of day and collect at end, but not for use in between periods. SLT are in discussions about criteria for using lockers eg. Pupils with lots of kit such as for PE.

Is there any update on refunds for cancelled trips?

- All cancelled trips have been refunded as of today.
- The decision has been taken to not have any trips this session so that staff can concentrate on teaching and learning. It's looking like the next trips will take place in 2021/2022.

When will hot food be available in school?

- The school is currently exploring with catering staff how to reintroduce hot food options for lunchtime, without reintroducing pupils queuing in one area.
- Trials are being held in another school and Lornshill will explore how this works with catering staff.
- There appears to be a widely held view that having separate areas for year groups is a positive and this would need to be considered when introducing hot food due to the physical capacity of the social area.
- Pupils can bring flasks of soup etc if they wish to have hot food.

At the last meeting Concerns were raised about pupils standing on Buses, have there been any updates on the inspections?

- A vehicle inspection has been carried out by the Campus Policeman and Michael Boyle; Education Services (Kilncraigs), CCTV on the buses has also been reviewed and to date there are no issues.

How will Parents Evenings be held this year?

- The current guidance is to minimise visitors to the school so the S3 parents evening will be cancelled.
- A summary of learning will be sent to parents with an invitation to discuss via telephone/online if they wish.
- PROGRESS updates will be available by Friday 9th October. Logins for S1s will be forwarded to parents/carers soon along with information about it and what it involves.

Will Pupils be receiving Chrome Books?

- Lornshill have received 109 chrome books. These will be distributed according to a specific protocol – for those Senior Phase Pupils most in need and for children who need to stay at home.
- It is hoped that funding will be sourced to enable all pupils to have access to a Chromebook.

When are the November Inset Day

- Friday 27th November

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 12th November 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 type questions in the chat box or ask them yourself.

We hope you can join us on **Thursday 12th November at 7pm.**

Contact Us

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