**ST NINIAN’S HIGH SCHOOL**

 **MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING**



 **MONDAY 3 OCTOBER 2022**

PRESENT:

MR P McLAUGHLIN (HT)

MRS S BOYLE (DHT)

MS S MacLEAN (Vice Chair)

MRS V McRAE (Parent)

MRS P BRESLIN (Church Rep)

MS L FAIRBAIRN (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: MRS Y WEBB (Chair)

MS K JAMIESON (Parent)

MS K McCARTHY (Parent)

MR J O’DOWD (Parent)

MR K McKENNA (Co-opted member)

Cllr S MURRAY

Mrs MacLean welcomed everyone to the first face-to-face meeting since Covid and we started with the school prayer.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

* Mr McLaughlin expressed his appreciation at being back to meetings in person. He introduced and welcomed Mrs Breslin as our new Church Representative. He expressed his thanks and appreciation of Tom Breslin, who has been a great friend and who recently stepped down as Church Representative for many years. Mr Breslin had arranged his successor who was appointed by the Archbishop.
* Three priests have been recently appointed to our local parishes. Canon Tartaglia and Fr Toner in Holy Family and St Ninian’s, St Flannan’s and St John of the Cross; Cannon Jeromy Bath in St Machan’s and St Paul’s. They have lots of plans to work with us and have been busy. Had masses, Feast Day. New Archbishop said Mass in church in the morning. Mrs Breslin said that Fr Hannah would be back on Friday for a celebration.
* Staffing: Jennifer Livingston PT Business – temp Acting DHT in Merkland for 1 year.

 Lynne Fairbairn office – Early retirement.

 David Killin DHT – appointed HT St Stephens. Garry Mulgrew PT PE has been

 appointed and will take up the post after the October week.

 Paperwork for the PT PE post is already in.

* School is very busy. House Mass and S1 Mass of Welcome, organised by S Boyle, have been held. Parents enjoyed being in the school and having the chance to chat. We’ve been missing the sense of community.

 Parents’ evenings could still be held on-line but we are hoping to hold them face to

in the school as much as possible.

* Prize Giving will be held next Thursday. This is always a big event and we have secured the Celtic Manager Angelos Postecoglou to attend. Uniform should be worn on the night except for last year’s S6s. Informal photos of the prizewinners will be taken tomorrow.
* The In-service day on Friday leads into the October week.
* S3 Parents’ Evening was held last Thursday. We have new furniture in the social area which isn’t ideal for Parent’s Evening, but it went well. 75% of parents made appointments on the on-line booking system. We’ve had good feedback. We are increasing the amount of Parents’ Evenings to 2 for S4-S6s to be held before and after assessments.
* Having struggled to do normal things since returning after lockdown, we are trying to make school exciting, fun and vibrant for pupils.
* Attendance (nationally) is not how it was, and we are focusing on attainment. Work is ongoing with staff to try to get back to previous standards.

Skills Academy is held weekly, S1 – Mon, S2 – Tues, S3 – Thurs. This means pupils aren’t being taken out of class. We are looking at lessons learned from Covid. Based on prioritising learners’ experience, mental wellbeing and leadership. Focus on pupils’ own skills and developing them further.

The S6 Retreat was held in Castlerigg House in Keswick and Fr Toner attended.

Weather permitting, we will be holding a sponsored cycle to the Falkirk Wheel on 27 October.

HMI inspections will restart next week and they are interested in seeing the differences after Covid. It is difficult to measure attainment. Mr McLaughlin discussed the good behaviour of pupils. Mrs MacLean added that the behaviour at Mass was impeccable, and commented on the impact the uniform makes.

Mrs Breslin told the members that Father Tartaglia is hoping to hold Mass 2 to 3 times per week and is willing to help the school where possible.

AOCB: Mrs MacLean asked what is happening with SQA. Mrs Boyle explained that the changes to coursework last year will remain this year.

Mrs MacLean thanked Ms Fairbairn for her work on the Parent Council and wished her well on her early retirement. She thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was brought to a close.

Next meeting: Monday 6 February 2023 at 7pm and will be held in the school.