

**JOHNSTONE HIGH SCHOOL  
PARENT COUNCIL AGM  
MON 23RD MAY 2016**

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Welcome to Johnstone High School's Parent Council AGM.

The current Parent Council was established and formalised in January 2015 after previously supporting the school as a parent focus group. The Parent Council now have a full membership of 18 parent members and 2 staff members and a healthy waiting list of parents who are interested in joining in the future. We are a strong Parent Council with representation from all seven associated primary schools and two local councillors who attend our meetings on a regular basis. In the school session 2015/2016 the Parent Council met every 6-8 weeks to discuss issues raised by parent members and the wider parent forum. A new Johnstone High Parent Council constitution was written and approved in October.

**School Year 2015/2016**

In August the school session began with an unexpected change in leadership, whereby Mr Michael Dewar became our Interim Head teacher supported by Mrs Lynne Hollywood. The uncertainty this move brought upon the school prompted the Parent Council to request a special meeting with Renfrewshire Council's Education Department. The meeting took place in August and we raised our concerns and discussed the issues facing Johnstone High School and sought reassurance that an action plan would be implemented, allowing the school to move forward. Mr Gordon McKinlay, Head of Service, reassured the Parent Council that stabilising and promoting Johnstone High was a priority and that he was committed to communication and resourcing that would ensure the school continues to succeed.

The new school leadership team very quickly encouraged and established a good working relationship with the Parent Council. A meeting planner for the year was agreed, Head Teacher reports to Parent Council would be produced as standard and the Head Teacher and Chair would meet prior to each Parent Council meeting to discuss the forthcoming agenda items raised by parent members.

The communication between school and Parent Council has greatly improved this year through the measures that have been introduced. Minutes from the Parent Council meetings are posted on the school website, allowing all parents to access this information. As from May 2016 The Head Teacher report will also be available on the school website. The positive culture introduced by the school of sharing information, involving Parent Council in school life and of listening and actioning parent member concerns, has contributed to a very positive relationship. This has benefited the school as a whole.

## **Issues Discussed and Contributions**

The Parent Council have highlighted and discussed many school issues over the course of the year in a relaxed, friendly and open environment.

These issues range from:

- Staffing and resources
- Improving school website/communications
- Celebrating pupil achievements
- Future school social events
- Behaviour & Homework policy
- School uniform
- Local Press publications

As a Parent Council we have been delighted to support the school in many ways:

- We contributed to the P7 Open Information Evening in November with some Parent Council members attending and being available to new parents to informally discuss their experience of school life and routines.
- Lack of volunteer staff meant that historically some pupils may not have had the opportunity to undertake the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. However the Parent Council highlighted the importance of this award to our school in a letter to the Head Teacher. The Parent Council offered support in making the awards possible. I'm delighted to report that the Duke of Edinburgh award programme was offered to all interested pupils of Johnstone High this session and they are currently successfully completing the awards.
- The Parent Council were involved in the successful appointment of the Faculty Head of English and Modern Languages. As Chair, I represented the Parent Council on the final interview panel. A further request for the Parent Council to assist with the appointment of a Depute Head Teacher in June has been accepted too.
- The school is rebranding its aims, values and vision. A number of Parent Council members are involved in assisting the school with this as part of a focus group.
- Encouragement and support was given to highlight positive school stories across the wider local community in the local press. The Parent Council acknowledge the importance and responsibility of sharing positive stories about Johnstone High School.

## **Presentations**

All six members from the senior management team and Mr Graham Johnston from Technical have delivered presentations on various topics throughout the year, which were well received by the Parent Council. They have been very informative and useful for the Parent Council to understand school processes. Topics have ranged from SQA exam results, the Insight online resource to analyse exam performance, School resources, Raising attainment, School entrance design, Pupil support, Behaviour policy and Timetabling.

## **A Bright Future**

Mrs Hollywood was appointed as Acting Head Teacher in January of this year. I'm confident the future is bright for Johnstone High School and a framework is now in place to provide a robust learning environment for the pupils. The Parent Council are very happy and impressed with the excellent progress made during 2015/2016 and feel the school is in a strong position for the year ahead.

Sincere thanks to all my fellow Parent Council members who have devoted their time, enthusiasm and commitment to support the school and Parent Council during the last year. Thank you.

Thanks to Paul, the Secretary, for all his minute taking and for his enthusiasm and support.

A special thanks to Mrs Hollywood and all the Senior Management Team for guiding the school so well this year, for the many additional hours devoted to the school and for being so supportive to the Parent Council. Thank you.

Finally, thanks to all the teaching and support staff for their hard work and commitment throughout the year.

As a Parent Council we look forward to working with and supporting our school in the year ahead to achieve great things.

Thank you.

Diane Spence

Chairperson Johnstone High School Parent Council

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Note. No Treasurers report available as no Parent Council fundraising activities occurred in the 2015/2016 session.