

## St Thomas of Aquin's High School

Parent Council Minutes

Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Present:	Lindi Smith, Lisi Black, Shona O'Brien, Monica Krause, Lesley Broadwood, Jonathon Midgeley, Andrew Gillies, Lorcan Mooney, Josephine Beech-Brandt, Fiona Bradley, Jo Kennedy, Andrea Manning, Tamasin Gray, Jo Phillips, Sue Widdicombe, Christopher Santini (CS), Madame Jean-Pierre (MJP) joined later in the meeting.	
Apologies:	Helen Field, Dee Armstrong, Naomi Neilson and Catherine Gray.	
Welcome:	Lesley Broadwood (LB) welcomed everyone and introductions were made around the table.	
Minutes from Last Meeting:	No comments made during the meeting, LB asked if anyone had any further comments to email her directly.	
Matters Arising:	1. Christopher Santini (CS) confirmed that a new police officer, Catherine Low, has been appointed and would start next week, working 2 days a week, at St Thomas's and at Drummond HS. LB confirmed the Parent Council should invite her to a meeting in the New Year.	LB
	2. Andrew Gillies (AG) explained he had not been able to progress the survey yet. Jo Kennedy (JK) suggested the draft survey previously prepared but be a good starting point and she would pass this on to AG	JK/AG
	3. LB confirmed that the foreign language appointment had been made.	
	4. CS has met with the attainment subgroup to discuss Insight report but has not yet met with the wellbeing group.	CS/AG
	5. Following the Green party's attempt to end voting rights on Edinburgh Council, the route the church representatives can influence educational matters pertaining to the Catholic Curriculum. Parent council agreed to investigate further the role of the church voters and the implications of their removal. LB confirmed that she had approached her contact but had not yet received a response. To be followed up.	LB
	6. An information post for the parents was to be drafted on this issue and sent to all parents via email	HF
	7. CS confirmed that parents had been emailed with directions to the school app. School policies had been added.  LB also confirmed that the Parent Council pages had been reviewed and a list of things to be updated prepared. This has still to be amended.	LB
	8. It had been suggested that a FAQ leaflet be prepared for new parents to the school. CS and LB to liaise on this.	CS/LB
	9. It was suggested a programme should be developed to help students leaving school whether to university or other	AG/JB



<p>Parental Involvement in Events &amp; Fundraising</p>	<p>LB highlighted that at the recent S2 parent information evening, she had attended, with a prepared flyer explaining how to get involved with Parent Council but disappointingly she had had no response to this.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It was agreed that it is important for Parent Council representatives to attend the various Parents evenings, serving teas &amp; coffees, discussing with parents the Council's role.</li> <li>2. It was felt that if everyone took a turn it would be less onerous. HF to get a timetable of all the parents evenings dates and to co-ordinate PC helpers.</li> <li>3. Jo Kennedy to find previous instructions for PC helpers detailing where to find things and how to run etc.</li> <li>4. It was also agreed that a social evening, pitched specifically at S1 parents should be organised. It was felt after the February break would be a good opportunity. 3 volunteers stated that they would like to be involved in organising this.</li> <li>5. CS explained that the teachers' lunches were very much enjoyed by the staff. The parents provided food and it was an opportunity for parents to meet with the teachers in an informal setting. However, given the limited time available with in service days it was felt that perhaps once a year was sufficient. It was agreed to plan this for 17-18<sup>th</sup> August in-service days.</li> <li>6. Easy Fundraising &amp; 50:50 club are easy low effort ways to raise funds. Currently no new members.</li> <li>7. Jo Philips (JP) was congratulated on running the Quiz and fashion events. She highlighted that both provided excellent learning experiences for senior pupils to get involved. She has a number of other formats to consider: Parent v Kids v Teachers.</li> <li>8. Catherine Gray is the current co-ordinator but looking to pass on the baton. LB to discuss with CG.</li> </ol>	<p>HF JK</p> <p>JBB/LB/</p> <p>LB</p>
<p>Climate Change</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. JP wanted to bring the topic of Climate Change to the attention of PC to open discussion on how as a school and as a PC we could promote this.</li> <li>2. CS explained that there are a number of initiatives going on at school including: links with school in Tanzania, recycling bins being introduced to school, Climate Strike at St Thomas with aim to clean up area around the school and thinking about Climate Summit in Glasgow next year and how school could mark this, promote issues through assemblies and PSE subject topics.</li> <li>3. Discussion on how PC could get involved including events &amp; Fundraising events, planting around schools.</li> <li>4. JP is happy to coordinate and would appreciate ideas being passed to her.</li> </ol>	<p>JP</p>

AOB	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is the time of year that PC requests applications for Small Grants for the school departments. Tamasin Gray (TG), PC treasurer, to liaise with CS.</li> <li>2. A parent asked why the Hong Kong school exchange was with an all-girls school. CS explained it was the only school that aligned with St Thomas's. CS advised that the school was currently unable to organise reciprocal trip to Hong Kong given the current political situation there.</li> <li>3. A parent asked what was planned for 'Meaningful May'. This is the programme provided for pupils not completing N5 but still required to attend school.</li> </ol>	TG/CS
Next Meeting	28 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 6pm	