

# Inverurie Academy Parent Council

## Committee Meeting Agenda

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Skype – 6.30pm - 8.30pm

1. Welcome (6.30 – 6.32)
2. Attending/Apologies (6.32 – 6.35)
3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes/Approval (6.35 – 6.50)  
Update – Daily Pupil Bulletins, Work Experience for S4, Duke of Edinburgh Awards
4. Treasurer Update (6.50 – 7.00)
5. Parent Council Policies (7.00 - 7.05)
6. Head Teacher (7.05 – 7.30)  
Update – Foundation Apprenticeships/College Linked courses, Google Classroom, Improvement Plan, Parent Portal, Staffing  
Presentation – **Learning and Teaching: Systems used to share students' progress with parents/carers**  
Impact of COVID-19 restrictions
7. Curriculum Changes (7.30 – 7.55)
8. Discussion Sessions (7.55 – 8.20)  
SQA Update and Q&A with Rob Fraser – SQA Officer  
OR  
Digital Literacy – Connecting Scotland resources. Feedback requested on Academy's strategy.
9. AOB (8.20 – 8.25)
10. Date (and place) of next meeting (8.25 – 8.30)



# Update – Daily Pupil Bulletins, Work Experience for S4, Duke of Edinburgh Awards

## Daily Bulletins

- Given that extra curricular activity has not been possible in Term 1, posting the bulletin on the website has not been prioritised.
- As extra curricular activities are beginning to be reintroduced, the daily bulletin will begin to feature on the website again.

## Work Experience

- all week-long work placements which have been scheduled as part of the work experience programme are cancelled for the remainder of the academic year due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation (Aberdeenshire Council)

## Duke of Edinburgh Award

- Mr Dair is keen to get DofE moving again – school meetings will plan this in Term 2 (Nov/Dec) with further information from January 2021.



Update – Foundation Apprenticeships/College  
Linked courses, Google Classroom,  
Improvement Plan, Parent Portal, Staffing

## Foundation Apprenticeships / College Link Courses

- Foundation Apprenticeship courses all carry an element of work placement / internship.
- These placements will mostly take place virtually but there are still some physical placements.
- Some have already started back, but many College Link courses to commence in January/February 2021.

## Google Classroom

- Following feedback from the Parent Council last term, we have requested that staff make a greater distinction between catch-up work and homework to prevent misunderstanding.

## Improvement Plan

- This remains in place on the school website and available to review. Reminder that, in line with many schools, our improvement plan priorities will be met over two years rather than one.



# Update – Foundation Apprenticeships/College Linked courses, Google Classroom, Improvement Plan, Parent Portal, Staffing Parent Portal

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/parents-portal/>

- Parent Portal is a mechanism for online services from Aberdeenshire Council.
- This facility is not controlled by the school so the following link is the best to use for information and someone to contact if you are having difficulties.
- <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/my/help/#help>

## Staffing

- We have been relatively fortunate with our staffing, both generally and specifically with COVID-19. We are members of staff short regularly but we have a very resilient staff team.
- PT Digital Literacy to support students and staff is a recovery post\* Mr Campbell (1<sup>st</sup> December) with 0.2 Modern Studies post advertised.
- PT Pathways to support our most vulnerable groups also a recovery post\* Mr Kelman (1<sup>st</sup> December) with Mrs Kavanagh increasing her hours in B&IT to support.
- Work shortly to commence on staffing for 2021-22!



Presentation – Learning and Teaching: Systems used to share students' progress with parents/carers

## Creation of the School Calendar



## Parent/Carer Evenings

- Replaced with an additional 'tracking' report on top of the reports already in the calendar – date of additional report to coincide with parent/carers evening.
- No budget for additional technology to be employed in the short term.
- Support materials added to the website as a 'next step'.
- Once a physical parent/carers evening has taken place, we will consult on the format of parent/carers evenings.

## The S3 Profile

- Creation of a profile completed by S1/S2 students in advance of coursing into S3, comprising a combination of academic and skills data – to be introduced in 2021-22 (see improvement plan).



# Curriculum Proposal

In order to maximise the chances of student success in Higher exams 2021-22 - we are proposing to move from 6 Subjects in S5 to 5 subjects.

Impact:

1 hour extra per week in each of their courses.

1 (sometimes 2) fewer courses to focus on.

Early simulations suggest little to no impact on the breadth of qualifications on offer (NPA's) #inclusion

COVID recovery – will be reviewed post-COVID

# Course Choice Proposal

In order to raise [#ambition](#) in our Senior Phase, we will use up to date performance data to guide students into taking the appropriate mix of qualifications for next year.

## Impact:

More students will be recommended to take more Higher qualifications than historically has been the case at Inverurie Academy.

More robust process for course choice to ensure purpose for returning to S6\*.

\*S6 will follow a full timetable unless they are on target to achieve 5 Higher awards over their S5 & S6.

# SQA Update – Robert Fraser, Liaison Manager

- Exam timetable
- N5 Evidence
- Support for teachers
- Certification of awards

