**Newbattle Community High School - Parent Council Zoom Meeting**

**6th August 2020**

Present Apologies

G McMillan Head Teacher A Westaby

C Park Parent J McGhie

P McIntosh Parent M Leslie

A Donaldson Parent K Maynard

L MacLeod Clerk

**School Recovery – G McMillan**

Gib spoke through the plans for the school return;

**PPE** – All staff will be provided with appropriate PPE; Masks, visors, gel, wipes.

**School Return** – S2-6 pupils will return to school in their houses. S1 pupils will attend daily, as follows;

Monday & Tuesday – Staff In service days (this will allow us to prepare for pupils returning)

Wednesday – All S1 pupils + Moorfoot House

Thursday – All S1 pupils + Pentland House

Friday – All S1 pupils + Lammermuir House

Pupils will follow a condensed timetable on these days that they will be provided with by the school.

Monday 17th – All pupils return.

**Opening times** – We are following the government guidelines that pupils should not be in school more than 15 minutes before the school day commences – for Newbattle, this will be 8.15am. Pupils arriving by bus will be escorted to ‘an area tbc’ until 8.15am.

Pupils will go straight to their period 1 class (not homeroom) where they will sanitise hands, wipe desk and chair both arriving and upon leaving the classroom.

**Split Timetable** – BGE and Senior phase pupils will have different break/lunch times. A tannoy announcement will be made when each year group should leave their classrooms. Gib showed the group the new period times and talked through them.

**Lunchtime** – Pupils can leave the building at lunchtime, as our Risk Assessment shows that this would work well. Rooms will be available for different homerooms to attend on wet days. We are getting assistance from Y2K at break and lunchtime to ensure all pupils are kept safe and are following the rules. Packed lunches will be expected for all pupils. Those on free school meals will continue to receive BACs payments into parent/carers bank accounts. Our kitchen will continue to make some additional packed lunches for those pupils who do not have any lunch.

**Zero Tolerance** – Any pupils not respecting the rules will have a formal disciplinary meeting with their house team and parent/carer. If a second offence occurs, then it would be an exclusion.

**Fire Drill** - The fire drill will change. Staff will be walked through the changes on in service days. Pupils will have a mock fire drill upon their return. This is so sufficient spacing can be kept between each year group while outside.

**If this system is not working then it will be reviewed and changed.**

Questions from the group:

*Question* Where do you drop pupils?

*Answer* Car park or the drop off point at the entrance to the school.

*Question* What is the situation with PE?

*Answer* PE can go ahead. It will be less vigorous activity as pupils will not be able to change (due to changing rooms being closed). We decided not to allow dress down on PE days as uniform is an important way to identify our pupils.

*Question* How will practical PE be tested?

*Answer* A lot of the theory work can be done in classrooms. Music is a difficulty at the moment as there is no guidance on this at the moment. We will not be cutting subjects from the curriculum.

**SQA Results – G McMillan**

Gib spoke through the situation with the SQA exam results;

**Trends** - Newbattle have been penalised due to trends ie. If a school result has historically been lower, then the results have reflected this.

**Appeals** - We estimate that around 350 appeals will need to be made, which will reflect what the teachers recommend for the pupils and not a ‘computerised system’. Any pupils looking to make an appeal should talk to or email their house team.

**Performance** - S4 and S5 performed very well. S6 pupils performed okay. Pupils have left school which has affected the stats also. Overall, the results were better than previous years.

**Anomalies** - The results were analysed by Caroline Philp (DHT), Mark Davidson (DHT) and Gib, who found anomalies with these. Some courses have not been passed by SQA, for example Wider Achievement so this is still being looked in to.

Gib asked the group for thoughts or questions.

*Question* Will there be more rigorous evidence this year?

*Answer*  We do have good evidence from last session. We send out tracking reports 5 times per year. Going forward, the evidence will be collected sooner. All staff will have this at the forefront of their minds.