**Newbattle Community High School**

**Parent Council Zoom Meeting**

**5th October 2020**

Present Apologies

G McMillan Head Teacher M Leslie

C Park Parent/Chair

P McIntosh Parent

A Donaldson Parent

L MacLeod Clerk

A Westaby Parent

K Maynard Parent

C Iley Parent

S Duncan Parent

S Fairley Parent

L Roxburgh Parent

M Winning Parent

Nick Parent

**Welcome**

Gib welcomed parents to a somewhat different Parent Council Meeting via zoom.

**Head Teacher Update**

Gib spoke through the small number of confirmed cases we have had at Newbattle (keeping pupil confidentiality at all times) and what steps have been put in place to contain the spread of the virus.

Midlothian as an authority have been unhappy with the length of time it has taken the Test and Protect Team to contact linked families – most of the work has been handled within the school with personalised calls, emails and texts to those affected. Four complaints have now been raised regarding this. Communications were sent out today across all schools in Midlothian from Fiona Robertson, Executive Director of Education.

Gib spoke through how the Midlothian and National rates are increasing.

School procedures are in place which continue to make school a ‘safe place’.

*The group were asked if they had any comments or questions at this time.*

Catherine, Samantha and Shirley commented that the communications sent out have been excellent and have covered everything.

Malcolm asked what the delay was from the Test and Protect Team, and what about pupils who are at home with high risk adults not finding out they have been in contact with a positive case until later on?

*Answer – The Test and Protect Team seem to be under a huge amount of pressure at the moment, but mostly we are unsure why it is taking so long, we have still to have this confirmed. We appreciate that parent/carers are finding out later than we would like, however as a school we are doing all we can to ensure every pupil is safe to be in school.*

**Uniform**

Gib spoke through the decision for pupils to remain in uniform while at school. SLT strongly feel this is important to ensure the safety of our pupils. It has taken a considerable amount of time to get pupils to wear uniform, it is thought that if we relax this now that we may find ourselves back to square one.

**PE**

The decision has been made to close down the PE changing rooms until after the October break. PE lessons will be reduced activity/intensity.

**AOCB**

Catherine surprised us by showing an open letter of thanks she has penned from the Parent Council demonstrating thanks to the staff of Newbattle and the excellent leadership from the SLT.  She got approval from the others in the group to share this – Gib will assist in sharing this letter with staff and on social media platforms.

Catherine also had the suggestion of using some of the ‘Friends of Newbattle’ funds to purchase some ‘goodies’ for staff on their last day before the October holidays as a Thank You. The zoom was cut off at this time however emails after said that Louise should purchase goodies of up to £100 to be paid by Friends of Newbattle.

An email has been sent out to the Parent Council to gather responses on the 2021 Exam diet. Responses will be sent onto Catherine who will collate and return for Newbattle.

**Actions:**

* Gib to share FON letter with staff and on Social Media Platforms.
* Louise to purchase ‘goodies’ for staff as a Thank you from Friends of Newbattle fund.
* Exam questions will be emailed out to Parent Council to complete and return to Louise who will forward onto Catherine to collate and return for Newbattle.

\*\*GMc advised that no minutes were required to be sent out as this was a COVID contingency meeting and a way to communicate with the group on a personal basis\*\*