**Newbattle Community High School**

**Parent Council Zoom Meeting**

**11th November 2020, 7pm**

Present Apologies

G McMillan Head Teacher M Leslie Teacher

A Donaldson Parent C Park Parent/Chair

A Westaby Parent/Vice Chair C Beattie Counsellor

K Maynard Parent P Macintosh Parent

N Iley Parent

M Winning Parent

S Duncan Parent

S Fairley Parent

L Roxburgh Parent

L MacLeod Clerk

**Prelims**

A Westaby had raised prelims. Last year’s prelims were more spread out and not a true reflection of how exam conditions usually are. The current S5 pupils have no experience of exam conditions as their main ones were cancelled. He wanted to know what the planned format was for this year’s prelims.

* Miss Philp (Depute of Curriculum) called A Westaby and spoke to him directly about the plans. She is meeting with Principal Teachers to confirm plans and more information will be sent out later.
* Most of the prelims will be January/February time.
* We are gathering as much evidence as possible in exam conditions and PTs have been asked to use the hall for any units/assessments etc.

S Fairley raised concern around pupils who are currently ‘off track’ on their recent tracking & monitoring report. Are teachers having conversations with pupils to ensure they understand why they are noted as ‘off track’?

**Action** – G McMillan advised that there should always be a conversation if a pupil is ‘off track’, either with the pupil, the house team or the parent. Gib has sent communication out to staff to ensure teachers understand this going forward.

A Donadlson asked if pupils will be required to wear a mask while sitting their prelim exam.

G McMillan advised we are unsure if pupils will be required to wear a mask, but in line with current regulations - yes. He will ask this questions at the Midlothian meeting.

**Friends of Newbattle**

L MacLeod advised the group that the Friends of Newbattle balance was £863.30. £80 was deducted last month after the group kindly purchased goodies for all staff to enjoy.

Thanks was shared with the group not only for the goodies, but for the show of support from the Parent Council.

S Fairley said to let the group know if there is anything the school needs and they would be happy to consider any requests.

**Digital Centre**

G McMillan shared 2 videos that have been put together to showcase the Digital Centre (videos in full will be sent out along with the minutes). The school are trying to push for more funding to allow the excellent work that has been going on in school to grow.

Newbattle has been recognised as one of the top 15 digital schools in Europe.

**HT Update**

Covid Cases

Confirmed covid case at the end of last week. The contact and trace was very quick as we are aware how the system works and how fast we have to move ourselves with this. A very small number of pupils are isolating.

Live Lessons

G McMillan is the schools rep for MNCT and has been enquiring about permission for staff to do video teaching sessions, parent’s evenings, transition events etc. At the moment in Midlothian it is a no, however it is something that we hope will happen eventually.

K Maynard commented that her son usually attends an Advanced Higher class at Lasswade High School as part of the shared Schools Partnerships and she thought this would’ve been a better way of teaching the subject, however now understands what that isn’t happening.

The group were keen to back the case for virtual lessons and suggested that a poll could be sent out to parents to gather views on this. Gib will consider this and discuss at his Midlothian meeting.

Midlothian Advisor Column Removed

G McMillan advised that the Midlothian Head Teachers have decided to remove their column in the Midlothian Advertiser. This in support of another school where HT’s was felt the school was unduly targeted with one perspective heavily weighted against them.

**AOCB**

Crawlees Road

M Winning asked for the schools view on the proposal to close Crawless Road. G McMillan advised that the school have already put a letter into the council highlighting concerns.