**Newbattle Community High School** 

**Parent Council Zoom Meeting**

**17th November 2021, 7pm**

**Present Apologies**

G McMillan Head Teacher C Park Parent

M Winning Parent/Chair C Iley Parent

A Westaby Parent/Vice Chair K Maynard Parent

M Winning Parent S Duncan Parent

J Read Parent F Oswald Parent

S Fairley Parent J Harvey Parent

P McIntosh Parent C Campbell Parent

G Miller Parent

L Roxburgh Parent

C Beattie Counsellor

B Aitken Senior Prefect

K Frew Senior Prefect

L MacLeod Clerk

Senior Prefect Update – B Aitken and K Frew (Senior Prefects)

Beth and Kaitlyn gave an overview of some of their priorities as senior prefects. These include:

AIMHigher Academy – more positive rewards for pupils.

Updating displays around the schools to make them more current/relevant.

Subject Ambassadors – potentially having seniors in classes assisting the younger school.

Seniors have a pot of money that they can decide what they would like to appropriately spend money on within the school. More information will be shared on this in due course.

Inspection – G McMillan

As a school, we are due to be inspected. We are unsure what the inspection is going to look like and exactly when this will happen, but we are preparing for it after the year. As soon as we have this confirmed, we will share with parent/carers.

A survey will be sent out to gather feedback on different aspects on how we can improve, over the next couple of weeks.

Parent/Carers will be called to support the inspection.

*Action – Gib to arrange survey*

Pastoral Supports – G McMillan

The school role is expanding year on year, with predictions confirming that this will continue to happen. We have recently had it confirmed that we will therefore be introducing a fourth house to the current structure.

The House Head will be appointed first, who will then assist with the hiring of the PT Tracking & Monitoring, followed by the Pupil Care and Welfare Officer.

The name of the house and colour of ties will be put out to pupils/parent council to help decide.

*Question - Colin asked what the capacity of Newbattle HS is?*

*Answer - Gib confirmed that it is just over 1200, however we can accept more than this due to the rooming size etc. We are capping our new S1’s at 240 for 2022, as we now have more seniors staying onto S6. We have more pupils looking to attend Newbattle than the year group allows.*

Creating Contacts – M Winning

Malcolm attended the Midlothian Parent Council Chairpersons’ meeting with the Local Authority to consult on the future/reform of Scottish Education. Chairpersons were asked to contact the whole parent/carer body to gather feedback on this with tight deadlines. This has been shared with the Parent Council and responses are being collated centrally.

Going forward, Malcolm would like to arrange a line of communication for the Parent Council Members.

*Action – Louise to create a google form asking for people to share their contact numbers to be part of a communication group with the Parent Council.*

**AOCB**

Reopening of the BiteSite

The BiteSite is reopening on 29th November. Sport & Leisure and Library Services are opening up to more normal procedures from 22nd November.

We are reverting back to the original timetable, with no split breaks/lunches.

Question - Kaitlyn asked where the pupils will be based as year groups at the same time Answer - Plans will be put in place where BGE will get to purchase lunch from 13.00. Senior pupils will be able to purchase lunch from 1.15pm.

Seniors will continue to have the use of the Ashleigh Gray Theatre to eat their lunch, and BGE will remain in the BiteSite – S1 towards the front, followed by S2 and lastly S3 towards the back of the BiteSite.

Disabled Parking

Malcolm raised that the taxis are using the disabled parking spaces, and the taxi spaces are being used by the general public. The taxi drivers are not collecting disabled pupils, so should not be using these spaces.

*Action – Louise and Gib to talk to PC Skirving and the Travel Team about the misuse of the Parking. To be added into the weekly comms.*

Extra Curricular Activities – J Reed

When PE were celebrating the Woman in Sports week, it seems that not all pupils were aware that this was going on. Parents were aware from the Instagram page, however it didn’t seem to communicate consistently across the school.

*Action – Louise to discuss/ think about better ways to promote these things*.

Julie also wanted to know what can be done out with the school to encourage children to be more active.

*Action – Louise to pull together all Extra Curricular Activities that go on within the school and share with parent/carers, along with promoting/sharing more with pupils.*

Primary Representatives – G McMillan

Gib would like to start having a representative from each of the feeder primaries attending our Parent Council meetings to feedback/build relationships/ask questions going forward.

*Action – All members with primary links will make contact and invite along to future meetings.*