



## Boroughmuir High School Parent Council

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021

### Attended by:

Kate Morris (PC Chair); David Dempster (HT), Claire Paterson (DHT), Clive Hembury (DHT), Juliet Presly (DHT), Ailsa Stratton (Online Learning & CL); Tony Segal (Active Schools Co-ordinator); Katie Scott (Developing The Young Workforce Schools Co-ordinator); PC Sub Group Leads; Boroughmuir Parents/Carers

Topic	Action
<p><b>1. <u>Developing The Young Workforce Co-Ordinator - Katie Scott (KS)</u></b></p> <p>KS explained her role at Boroughmuir, which is bringing career education into the Curriculum, working with employers in order to support young people to understand the labour market and the opportunities available to them.</p> <p>She outlined the current focus: <b><i>Career Mentoring Programme.</i></b></p> <p>Pupils will be matched with relatable role models who will act as Mentors to help them in their next steps to their chosen career paths.</p> <p>Will be particularly useful for those pupils who don't have an existing network in that career field.</p> <p><b><i>Boroughmuir Parents/Carers are requested to consider offering their support by joining the Programme</i></b> (which will be administered by KS).</p> <p>Mentors will receive training. Networking meetings will happen throughout the year.</p> <p>Timescales: - Recruit Mentors before the summer holidays - Programme Launch after summer - Followed by Training</p> <p>KS: Programme is open to feedback and is happy to discuss what potential volunteers might be able to offer.</p> <p>Link to Presentation: <a href="http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/DYW-Career-Mentoring-Slides.pdf">http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/DYW-Career-Mentoring-Slides.pdf</a></p> <p>For more information or to volunteer: <a href="mailto:Katie.Scott@edinburghchamber.co.uk">Katie.Scott@edinburghchamber.co.uk</a></p> <p><b>2. <u>Boroughmuir Active Schools Co-Ordinator – Tony Segal (TS)</u></b></p> <p>Link to Presentation: <a href="http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Active-Schools-Presentation-2-6-21.pdf">http://boroughmuirhighschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Active-Schools-Presentation-2-6-21.pdf</a></p>	

TS outlined the background to changes being implemented by Edinburgh City Council as part of city-wide post-Covid Recovery Strategy.

*There are benefits:*

- Leadership programmes such as Young Ambassadors Conference; Leadership Academy - Coaching Education will be open to BHS pupils
- Opportunities for pupils with interest in Sport to run Clubs and encourage others to be active
- Strategy will target the least active pupils.

*Pete Nienow* (Parent representing Sports Sub Group) responded:

*There will be a significant impact on Boroughmuir Extra-Curricular Clubs:*

- Active Schools will no longer be able to collect money as payment for Club participation/subscriptions or pay Coaches
- Edinburgh CC Join-In service will have no option to accept payment
- Some payments are taken via BHS Parent Pay but increase in volume would be an added burden on Office staff
- Parent/Carer or Staff Volunteers will be needed to help run Clubs, support competitions – time commitment might be onerous
- Very little notice given and therefore no guarantee that these issues can be resolved for Clubs to re-start by next academic session.

**Questions from Parents/Carers:**

- Is there a working model elsewhere in Scotland that we can borrow from?
  - Bruntfield PC Chair offered to share info on Class4Kids which they are using to manage payments and registrations
- What Clubs are running this term?
  - Cheerleading; Kayaking; Hockey
- How do Meggetland bookings work for BHS Clubs?

### **3. NQ Schedule**

*Kate Morris (KM)* noted general lack of confidence being expressed by BHS Parents/Carers in the SQA, the perception of a lack of fairness in the Alternative Certification Model and inconsistencies in how it is being applied across Scotland.

*DD, Claire Paterson (CP) and Ailsa Stratton (AS)* responded to Parent/Carer concerns and questions and outlined the process at BHS:

- We believe we have a robust, sound and fair system in BHS with a Quality Assurance Cycle and Moderation process, approved by Edinburgh CC Quality Improvement Team
- The system has the agreement and buy-in of BHS Staff across SLT and all 11 Heads of Departments and Curricular Leads (this is not the case in all Scottish schools)
- Pupils say they also agree with the approach
- Where a pupil's grade is not reflective of their expected attainment, staff will address this using other assessment information
- Malpractice has been seen at BHS and the Malpractice policy has been invoked out of fairness to other pupils
- Resits: reports of some schools allowing pupils to re-sit the same paper to improve their grade. DD questioned the manageability of this practice given the marking, QA and Moderation processes

**Action:** Interested Parents/Carers are encouraged to raise concerns with local council reps and MSP.

**Action:** TS to provide an outline of Meggetland booking process

- Subjects with assessments over 2 sittings where materials are understood to have been shared on social media:
  - All schools will be in a similar position
  - CLs are aware, will continue to look out for this and will use weighting to counter any potential advantage
  - Steps have also been taken to modify papers which may have been shared for the 2<sup>nd</sup> sitting
- Plagiarism in Folio work: Staff are experienced in identifying this and would query with pupil
- Unit Assessments: some schools are using smaller Unit Assessments – BHS parents are concerned that these could be easier to pass. DD and CP advised these may not be considered to have a “High Predictive Value” (ie. assessment has been sat under assessment conditions and has appropriate course coverage) and those schools would have to consider their Grade Boundaries under QA procedures. BHS hasn’t used small Unit Assessments and our grade “concordancy” is very good
- Quality Control: Assessment materials have been checked against standards. Staff have taken SQA Understanding Standards modules. Staff are vastly experienced, many have worked for SQA
- Grade Boundaries will be determined via meetings with SLT and Quality Improvement Officer, taking into account past performance for BHS
- Thanks were expressed by Parents/Carers for the hard work being done by the SLT and staff in these extremely challenging times and for maintaining high standards at Boroughmuir.

#### **4. P7 to S1 Transition**

*Juliet Presly*

Transition process is underway. Enhanced Transition for pupils who benefit from extra support will take part in a specially designed programme in school.

3 Day Visit will happen in Primary classrooms with Livestreams of Assembly, Fitness session, HFTT lesson.

Parent/Carer information will be issued soon and feedback will be requested.

Experience gathered from last year’s process will form improvements which will be implemented into the first week of term.

#### **5. Timetabling**

*Clive Hembury*

Planning is ongoing for the next academic session. We are aiming, wherever possible, to help pupils take the subjects they’d like to rather than restrict them.

Rooming is complete for the full timetable.

Thanks to the Office staff for helping with rooming arrangements for Assessments.

New timetable will begin w/c 21/6 (last week of term). The current timetable will be followed till then, although this may mean pupils will stay for a short time with subjects they don’t intend to continue with – this is to provide sufficient time for teaching staff to complete the marking/moderation process and then prepare their new class lists and resources.

#### **6. Online Learning**

*KM*: a review of Online Learning during Lockdown is necessary as there were inconsistencies in approaches between teaching staff – this is to ensure lessons are learned if Home Learning ever becomes necessary again.

Some staff adapted and worked better than others.

*DD*:

- Certain factors are in play which can have affected delivery of online teaching – different levels of experience and systems knowledge or home situation.
- Teaching Unions also had input.
- If in future there are instances of staff not providing sufficient support, these should be raised with school.

*AS*:

- With 100+ staff there are likely to be challenges in delivering a homogenous service. There were obvious pressures for some staff juggling work and home responsibilities.
- In live sessions, where pupils were not interacting (eg. video and microphones off), some teachers found this overwhelming.
- However, through a department survey, staff reported 4k-5k lessons were delivered during Lockdown (combination of live and pre-recorded), including 1-1 pupil support sessions.
- Some provided consolidated work that could be done over 3 weeks.
- CPD Training was provided for staff.
- Pupil Council were consulted on how best to gain engagement with pupils.
- The BHS online offer will benefit from this experience in the event of a future Lockdown.
- Pupils currently isolating: work should be posted on Teams for them.

#### **7. AOB:**

Question about S6 Pupil Head Team selection process.

*DD*: Move to gender-neutral School Captains rather than Head Boy/Girl roles is seen as a forward step. The make-up of this team will be determined entirely by the result of pupil and staff votes.

#### **8. Sub Group Reports**

**Engage** (Margaret Ries): Next event is on Tuesday 15/6 at 6:30 over Zoom.

We have another excellent group of speakers from Medicine, Art Curation, University Leadership, Library Development, IT/Digital Skills.

Please encourage your young people to sign up!

<https://boroughmuir-engage-15062021.eventbrite.co.uk>

**Social and Fundraising** (Merav Gardi):

- Sincere thanks to those who have used **Easyfundraising** when shopping online - we have received over £700 this year from the platform! As 'traditional' fundraiser opportunities were very limited, this has been a substantial part of our income this year which we can then offer the school to go towards enhancing our childrens' school experiences.
- If you are not yet using this online shopping portal, please consider supporting our fundraising efforts in this way – it allows us to receive a donation for almost any online shopping, at no expense to the shopper!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/boroughmuir-pc/>

- Our current total of funds available to the school: £3800 of which £400 has been allocated to support the S6 Leavers' celebration.
- In consultation with SLT, it has been decided to organise the next bid process in the new academic year.
- The Social & Fundraising Team are planning an event in early September, either 'live' in school, or online, depending on restriction levels at the time. Look out for more info!

**Communications** (Marion Bourbouze): nothing to report.

**Curriculum** (Kay Walker): Fiona Liddle and Moira MacDonald leave at the end of term – thanks to them for their many years of service to the group.

**Chair:** KM advised that next year is her last as Chair. If anyone is interested in shadowing/ taking on the Vice Chair role, please contact KM:

[chair@boroughmuir-pc.co.uk](mailto:chair@boroughmuir-pc.co.uk)

**Treasurer:** PC is still looking for a replacement for the outgoing Treasurer. The workload is NOT huge, far less than a primary school Treasurer. The **PC cannot legally continue to operate without a Treasurer** so this call for a volunteer is an extremely **urgent** one!

More information from:

Dawn MacNeil: [treasurer@boroughmuir-pc.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@boroughmuir-pc.co.uk)

or KM: [chair@boroughmuir-pc.co.uk](mailto:chair@boroughmuir-pc.co.uk)

**Parent Council Contact Details:**

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