

JYHS Parent Council Wednesday 19th January 2023

6.30pm – 8.00pm

1. Meeting Opening (PC Chair – Andy Walker)
2. Introductions
3. School Updates including
 - a. Draft Policies -
 - i. MHMW Policy
 - ii. Anti-Bullying Policy
 - iii. Equalities policy
 - iv. LGBTQ+ Policy
 - b. Any other updates from School.
4. Parent Council Updates
 - a. West Lothian Parent Forum
 - i. <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/wl-parent-forum>
5. AOB
6. Dates for next meetings
 - a. Tuesday 14th March 2023
 - b. Thursday 15th June 2023 – TBC

Update from Tricia

Numerous activities at School

- S1 CAT (Cognitive Abilities Tests) will be held before Christmas.
- Readathon
- Anti-Bullying Week
- S4 Conference
 - Led by PSE Team
 - SDS – Skills Development Scotland

Response to question raised by parent regards resumption of school trips.

- There have been 36 trips held this year, 23 since September.
- Trips have been focussed mainly on those that are free or are not overly expensive.
- Large increase in costs associated with trips, makes a number of trips unaffordable.
- Still difficult to provide suitable cover for trips due to ongoing impact of staff absence.

Response to question raised by parent regards recent increase in fire alarms.

- Fire alarms have been caused by Pupils Vaping in school bathrooms. Challenge similar to other schools.
- Last year issues faced with pupils pressing Fire Alarms. This issue has essentially been resolved by installation of ‘Screamers’ on the fire alarms which give off high pitched noise when operated. This has deterred pupils from setting the alarms off this way unless in an emergency.
- School had given a number of pupils warnings about the use of Vapes which is illegal for those under the age of 18. It is also illegal to provide Vapes to anyone under the age of 18. Parental support on the issue has been somewhat lacking.
- The School has decided to take a stern line with this and will exclude any pupil that is caught vaping on School Premise.

- The members of the parent council present unanimously backed this approach to the issue.
- School has provided a great deal of support and information to the pupils on this matter.
- Support has also been provided by Drug and Alcohol Services such as Back 9, who previously focussed solely on education around the dangers of Smoking, now focussing on education around the dangers of Vaping.
- Fire and Police Services have also been engaged by the School to provide education on these matters to all pupils.

Response to question raised by parent regards progress on S6 Study Pods

- Good progress has been made. Hoping to make start on installation pre-Christmas.

Outdoor Learning Update - Charlie Holt (English Teacher and Outdoor Learning Lead)

Great update from Charlie regards previous years achievements of pupils. Gold, Silver and Bronze awards achieved with support of JYHS.

Increased costs of activities and the additional requirement for risk assessments and higher degree of staff coverage makes holding activities such as camping and hiking difficult. There is also the impact on the classes of those teachers who cover such activities.

These activities have always been very useful to both teachers and pupils as it builds relationships as well as providing useful life skills.

There is a requirement to not only find ways to provide additional funding for these activities but creative ways to provide suitable supervision support. All non-teaching staff need to undertake a PVG check which the school are happy to provide.

School Vision and Values Activity with Parents- Susi Davidson (PTC English)

As part of the schools 40-year celebrations it was discussed with the pupils if the Schools Vision and Values needed updated to be more in-line with modern society. Pupils were asked to think what sort of values they would like the school to be associated with today and in 40 years. Susi took the parent council members through an activity like that which the pupils undertook to determine in what order they would place several values. Susi would take the results and feed it back into the activity.

AOB

When will the S3 parental consultations take place?

- Wednesday 1st of March.