

Deans Community High School Parent Council

Chair's Annual Report - November 2018/19

The Parent Council are represented by a dedicated group of parents whose children range in age from S1 – S6. There is a breadth and depth of experience which gives a balanced view of all year groups in collaboration with Mrs Allison HT, School staff, outside agencies and Students.

One of my aims this year was to strengthen our links with partnership agencies and Staff. I invited outside agencies who are involved in the life of the School to join our meetings to discuss their roles, aims and how they support Students, Parents and Staff. Parent Council members views were sought and discussed. Smartboard presentations are available to view on the School App and website from :

- Evelyn Rodgers - Carers adviser based in the School
- Melissa Byrne - Family Support worker

Autism Ambassadors (S6 students) and staff members joined us to discuss how they support Students, their role and next steps building on successful strategies and promoting awareness and wellbeing of ASD students within DCHS and the wider community.

We have developed closer partnership with Staff in the School who have been proactive in engaging with the Parent Council and have sought collaboration on matters such as Transition and the Further and Higher Education Event. Views from the Parents/Students perspective were discussed regarding the UCAS process.

Representatives from the Parent Council attended the Transition Information Evening to welcome new Parents to the School. This gave us the opportunity to speak about the role of the Parent Council. As a consequence, we have increased our membership which was our intention.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the School from the Parent Council in particular around improving health and wellbeing for students. The wellbeing check-in is a new initiative that has been implemented which are related to the wellbeing indicators. There is a display in the School Foyer for all to see. The Be Real Campaign is run by Student Ambassadors and Champions to promote positive body image.

The School is committed to building partnerships with parents and carers, seeking their views to improve the experiences of the students. The School actively reflect on ways to further engage Stakeholders in the Life of the School.

Going forward I would like to further strengthen our collaboration with the Students and invite the House Captains to our Meetings to discuss the life of the School. To raise the profile of the Parent Council and to encourage engagement with Parents, a Parent Council Information page could be further developed on the School App and website.

I have invited the Councillors representing Livingston North to join our meetings, working in partnership to support our School.

I would like to thank Mrs Allison, teachers, pupils and the Parent Council Members for their support over the last 12 months. Working together to improve our children's educational requirements and identified areas of improvement can only result in a better educational experience for our children.

Angela Ritchie Chair Deans Community High School Parent Council 25/11/19