

Holyrood Secondary PC Meeting

2nd September 2020 on zoom

In attendance:

Mrs S. Watson

Ms M. Gardner

Mrs M. Gunn

Joanna welcomed all members to the meeting.

1) HT update - Sharon Watson

Busy few weeks

Original arrangements working pretty well but have changed some as not worked as first thought. Young people have been excellent, no concerns with hand sanitising, cleaning desks, respectful with 2m staff zones. YP have been superb overall.

Entrances/exits not working as well as Mrs Watson had hoped, partly due to habit as YP have usually left from main entrance but also to do with where YP live and where they are trying to get to - train station and bus stop location causing a bit of congestion. Bell earlier for S1-S3 has helped this.

Two lunches working better than Mrs Watson could have imagined. YP also enjoying. Mrs Watson considering not returning to single lunch break post covid as working so well. 2nd Interval also proved necessary though not on original timetable, but first rainy day proved it was needed. Outdoor seating etc only works when it's dry.

Mask wearing in corridors started this week and uptake has been tremendous. Praise due to YP and thanks also to parents for their encouragement. Great following of the new rule. No requirement to wear masks in class but some classes ie drama are wearing masks to allow for a better class experience. Teachers wearing masks if necessary ie if within 2m of YP.

From a H&S perspective we have been learning and trying to improve as we go along. One way system making it slightly easier but feels a lot safer now wearing masks as it is still busy.

Good to know if anything parents are hearing that school should know?

JM asks if any concerns or questions?

Q - Is there a Holyrood Mask ?

A - Yes, hot off the press. Mrs Watson ordered masks and every YP and member of staff will be provided with one, so everyone has at least one reusable mask. But other masks can be worn too.

Q - What has the pupil attendance been like? Is it lower due to colds etc?

A - yes slightly lower, about 5% lower but not significant numbers absent. Slight anxiety during first week over covid symptoms but this is settling down. Info from Scot Gov has been helpful in reassuring. No positive cases of YP in Holyrood to date but we are getting prepared for that eventuality.

Q - Does testing take place in school?

A - No

Q - Are many staff members off?

A - Staff presence very strong at present.

Q - Any communications/feedback from shops or local community with the YP being about in large numbers?

A - Nothing from smaller, local shops or the garage but one area of concern is ASDA. Mrs Watson in touch with manager. Just to do with queuing and impact on customers as ASDA has been quieter than usual previously.

Q - Are YP in good spirits?

A - yes, they have been in good spirits and have literally just got on with it. Taking to changes very well. Each YP will have a personal interview with either Pastoral care, Support for Learning teacher or year head to discuss any worries etc. Feedback from YP so far is positive.

Q - If someone tests positive will parents be informed?

A - Yes, letter comes from public health (PHS) . Letters depend on circumstances of contact etc but PHS have a protocol which rolls out if a positive case occurs. So everyone will know if there is a positive case (but not personal details obviously)

Q - Parents Evening or report cards, particularly for current S2 who missed S1 parents evening. Parents concerned about this.

A - Discussions in place regarding this. Hopefully calendar will be in place soon. It is not expected that any face to face parents evenings or similar will take place this year.

S1 zoom event is being planned with Mrs Brady just now as a pilot to see how it works. Usual tracking will be in place.

Mrs Watson agreed to bring further information back to the next meeting. Obviously Holyrood not the only school affected by this and so hopeful that wider LA guidance will be developed.

Q - Options for current S2?

A - Decision was made to continue with S1 subject as YP didn't completely finish S1 courses. Consultation Information will go out to parents, probably nearer Christmas about how this will continue into the next term and for the rest of the session.

2) SQA Update - Megan Gardner

Since last meeting the decision has been made to award all YP with their estimated grades. This is very positive for our YP and these new results mean that Holyrood has had its best ever year.

S4 for 5+ N5. - 43% risen to 48.5% —5% increase

S5 for 5+ Highers - 15% risen to 19.6% —5% increase.

3+ Highers - 8% rise to 38.9%

1+ Highers - 10% rise to 65%

1+ Advanced Higher - 22%

It could be said that this rise is due to overestimating pupils grades but this year's YP have had a year like no other and so this should be remembered and is a positive message.

Appeals process has now changed due to new awards. Criteria is -

- error with SQA
 - Admin error from school ie miscommunication
 - Estimated grade doesn't take account of some evidence ie extra time or reader/scribe
- Deadline beginning of next week. But likely to be few and far between.

Q - Will YP get new certificates?

A - Yes delivery due w/c 7 Sept

Q - How do YP know if their grades changed?

A - They can look on "My SQA" until new certificates arrive by post.

Q - Have any S5 or S6 YP who left school been disadvantaged?

A - Not to the knowledge of school. There have been some disagreements over estimates given but GCC has a process to take this forward. Any YP who feel disappointed etc have been supported by staff.

Survey went out to staff members around contingencies for next years exams 2021. The results of this are not known yet and this will be communicated with the PC when new information from SQA is known.

3) Digital Learning Provision - Mary Gunn

Holyrood awarded the Digital Schools Award last week so very well done to our Digital Strategy Group and our Digital Ambassadors for all their efforts.

Blended Learning Plans were developed in June, and if needed in an emergency could be used reasonably easily. Bigger issue might be that it won't be blended learning but more specific groupings of absences, bubbles etc.

The West Partnership are creating digital lessons through E- Sgoil that senior phase pupils will be able to access from 7 September. These details will be communicated to pupils and parents. These are video lessons, developed by many teachers across the West Partnership. Brilliant resource for YP.

Young people in Holyrood lucky as iPads had been distributed prior to lockdown. They have been well used over the last few months.

Training with staff on use of apps etc had started before lockdown but then quick decisions had to be made.

All staff and pupils will primarily use TEAMS. But SHOWBY will also be used. There are particular issues with any app which is why these will both be used. Good for pupils to build up knowledge of more than one app.

Glasgow City Parents Group developing "How To" guides for parents. These are available on their website. <https://wakelet.com/wake/cf68e515-08a6-4e8a-a418-92a20ed3f095?fbclid=IwAR1R598kti3NctkQKJ698nHOo6yOo7TNkqtxTrb-t5iq5OI98YLQWBaRPG0>

Resources are not on the School Website due to storage issues. All resources are on GLOW which each YP has access on Sharepoint on their iPad.

Help with iPad issues for YP is available at lunchtimes.

Biggest issue is disable passwords. After 3 incorrect attempts the password is disabled and YP needs to go to Mrs Gunn to get it reset.

Q - Is the "My school app" still in operation?

A - Yes, All information that is posted on the website goes onto the app. Some parents use website and some use app. There are various ways to access information.

Information is posted weekly on the app.

Q - Digital skills gap of teachers. Was this a problem for Holyrood?

A - Digital Leaders of Learning kicked off really quickly in Glasgow and provided webinars for teachers. 10 weeks of training was provided as a drop in facility for staff members. This will be continued during term time too.

Staff members becoming much more confident with the iPads. Knowledge of Teams and Showby has grown a huge amount during lockdown. Training etc counts as CPD for teachers so this knowledge been logged on their files.

Q - Did Holyrood receive any of the devices that John Swinney talked about?

A - As our YP all have devices we did not receive any more, but an audit of wifi accessibility is being carried out at present so dongles can be provided as needed.

Q - Consistency in online learning needed as is confusing for YP and parents. Can this be addressed? Different teachers used different methods etc.

A - Fair point. In early lockdown there was a bit a scramble to start using TEAMS etc. This should have been resolved so the YP are more comfortable and knowledgeable.

Mrs Watson said -This has been discussed at previous meetings and was previously explained that whole departments have procedures to avoid duplication and differences of application. Training is continuing with staff members. Teams is the basic application but some departments use other applications as well ie the art dept uses extra apps.

Q - can we get into the routine of a monthly newsletter or update which allows for all new information?

A - Good Idea. We will look into that, no reason why not.

Q - If we have to go into full lockdown again can we stick to lessons along the timetable so teachers are available at that time?

A - that is difficult as we don't have a full lockdown plan, the plan is for either full access or blended learning. Haven't thought about what would have to happen if we went back to a complete lockdown again. Not saying yes or no to this idea. Leave it with me and we will look into it when developing plans.

Q - Is online learning available for isolating pupils?

A - Yes, this is ongoing with principal teachers in various different ways. If a pupil was absent then they would be reminded to use this.

4) Communications

PC needs to go out to the Parent Forum and ask if other parents to join the PC meetings during this unusual time. It would be good to get some new members for the PC.

Discussion took place about the AGM and it was decided to delay it till later in the session and to hold some open Parent Council meetings in the run up to the AGM to gather some more parent members. PC members were happy to get Mrs Watson to put out a text to all parents in the school the day before the next few meetings to advertise them.

Joanna advised that both she and the vice chair would be standing down from their positions as their children were both in S6. So both the chair and vice chair positions would become vacant at the AGM.

5) AOB

Mrs Watson told the group that Fr Paul Murray from St Helen's Parish had become the chaplain for the school. Fr Paul is hopeful that he can begin to attend assemblies in the near future.

A PC member asked about the toilet provision for the YP. Mrs Watson explained how many there were and that pre Covid some of them could be closed at different parts of the day. Currently all of the pupil toilets are open all the time.

One set of toilets was due to be refurbished but that has been delayed due until January. These have been paid for but the work was delayed.

PC member mentioned that they were annoyed that a picture of the main door at Holyrood was used in a newspaper article with the headline "covid cases in schools" and asked why was the picture always of us? Mrs Watson explained that's what happens when you open the school doors to the press for good reasons but agreed it was misleading.

PC member mentioned difficulties getting through to the school office. Mrs Watson explained that the switchboard could get busy and there was nothing else could be done, but all year heads and

pastoral care staff emails were available on the school website etc. If a response to an email was not received after 24 hours then feel free to email Mrs Watson to chase up.

PC member asked if old uniforms could be handed in to be distributed as necessary but unfortunately this is not permitted at present. There are a couple of school uniform charities which accept uniform so it was advised they try there.

Question about pupils from other schools coming into Holyrood or trainers etc?

There are a few AH pupils coming in and these pupils are subject to track and trace etc.

Similarly small numbers of trainers are coming in but no large groups of training. MCR pathways mentors are also attending.

Also some YP from Holyrood are attending college but no Holyrood pupils are going to other schools this year.

Dates for next meetings set at

30 September

28 October

25 November

All at 7pm on zoom.

Joanna thanked Mrs Watson, Ms Gardner and Mrs Gunn for their input to the meeting tonight and closed the meeting.