

Minutes of Wallace Hall 2-18 Parent Council meeting Tuesday 13th November 2018

Present: Mark Blount (Chair), Marissa Larisma, Lynn Smith, Ann Andreason, Kerry Fraser, David Dillon, John Bair, Darren Burns, Louise Cochran (Vice Chair), Ray Fulton, Natalie Hare (Clerk).

Item		Action
1	<p>Apologies Claire Wilson, Carol Hamilton, Jillian Maxwell, Caroline O'Hara, Pam Fergusson, Dawn Stirk, Christine Carson.</p>	
2	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Mark Blount welcomed everyone to the meeting and made a request for any donations for the Christmas Fayre Bottle Stall, Raffle and Tombola to be given into the School office for the attention of Jillian Maxwell.</p>	
3	<p>Approval of the Minutes from last meeting and matters arising</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting on 13th November were approved without amendments.</p> <p>The Alumni Subgroup is looking for additional members. Any volunteers can email MB at wallacehallparentcouncil@gmail.com</p>	
4	<p>Head Teachers Report</p> <p>WH ELC News ELC pupils have been busy celebrating Halloween with a spooky week of activities going on during the sessions. They also enjoyed their annual Halloween party. The children have learned about Firework safety and the story of Guy Fawkes.</p> <p>Pupils in the ELC have now moved onto learning about Autumn time. They have been on their annual Autumn walk where they looked for signs of Autumn. On the walk they collected leaves, sticks, conkers and moss and took these back to the playroom to examine them further.</p> <p>In the Academy they have been visiting Mr Arrowsmith's ICT room regularly to practise using the mouse on the computers.</p> <p>Heidi from P5 has visited the Nursery to help the pupils prepare their snack. Heidi has also taught them British Sign Language actions for food and animal names.</p>	

Primary News

P7 pupils visited the Devil's Porridge museum on Wednesday 31st October as an introduction to their WW2 context.

P3 pupils have participated in various walks around the local community as part of their topic. The pupils have really enjoyed being out and about in the fresh air.

P1 pupils have enjoyed 2 sessions of lunchtime S6 playleader activities. P2 pupils will also have the opportunity to take part in similar sessions later this month.

The Halloween Disco was a great success with lots of pupils making a huge effort with their costumes. Sixth year pupils were a great help on the night and joined in with the fun.

Academy News

Margaret Miller, PT Pupil Support and PE Teacher will be retiring at the end of this term having worked at Wallace Hall from 2002. We were delighted that Laura Mack, currently Acting PT Pupil Support and Chemistry Teacher, was appointed as permanent PT Pupil Support last week. Margaret's PE post is now advertised as FTE 1.0 due to an increase in uptake in the subject.

Aleksei Wishart travelled to NASA, Houston, where he took part in Space School for a week during the October holidays. He secured this place during an intensive course at Strathclyde where he spent some time taking part in space related activities with pupils from all over Scotland. Only the very top students were selected to visit NASA so securing a place was a tremendous achievement for Aleksei and an opportunity of a lifetime. He had a brilliant time in Houston and the experience will be a fantastic addition to his personal statement and future CVs.

At the end of last term some of our talented performers organised a concert for pupils and staff which they ran twice on the Thursday afternoon. This was a nice way to end the end the term and was very well received by both pupils and staff.

Sam Taylor has been training with the Glasgow District Under 16s rugby team over the holidays. He has played a couple of games with the team against squads from Edinburgh and the Borders. Sam is following the same route with his rugby as Gavin Wilson did and hopefully Sam will have as much success as Gavin has had.

Aeron Greenland has been selected to represent his country at the under 21 European Karate Championships in Denmark in February.

<p>5</p>	<p>New S1 Reports by R. Fulton</p> <p>RF gave members an example of the new report that has gone out to parents and welcomed any comments from members, see Appendix A.</p> <p>After feedback from parents it was decided to make changes to the timing of the Parent's evening and to the reports that were sent out. S1 Reports and parents evening has previously taken place in May S1 parents evening has been brought forward to November and this has received positive feedback.</p> <p>The format and information provided in the reports has been improved and will now include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title with pupils name, year and House group • A welcome message from Mr Blair, with an invite to attend the parents evening • A photo of the pupils class for parents to familiarise themselves with any of their child's new friends • A photo of their child in the class room environment • A few paragraphs of comments on the pupil written by either the Pupils House Principle Teacher Pupil Support or the Depute Head Teacher • A short comment on how the pupil is performing from each member of staff that teachers that pupil and how parents can help their child develop • Photos of key members of staff to help parents recognise who they can speak to, particularly for S1 Parents Evening • A couple of sentences from the Pupil on how they feel they are getting on • On the last page a list of Extra-curricular clubs available for Pupils at Wallace Hall <p>All the members agreed that the new format of the report and rescheduling the timing was a very positive change.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Transition review by D. Dillon</p> <p>At the moment transition for the new S1's comes to an end after the Belmont trip.</p> <p>Transition for Wallace Hall S1 Cluster Pupils begins in P5. During May pupils are invited to visit the Academy to use the sports facilities.</p> <p>P6 Pupils will then have 3 visits before Christmas and more after. During these visits they will experience Maths, Science, Modern Studies and PE lessons to gain a greater understanding of the School.</p> <p>P7 have more intensive longer visits where all the faculties will present to the pupils. Pupils will be given a work book to complete exercises on English Literacy throughout the transition period. This will then become their first English Literacy work book when they start S1. Work will be marked by both the Pupils Primary Teacher and their Secondary Teacher. This will enable the Secondary Teacher to gauge the level of competence of the pupils joining across the Cluster.</p> <p>Pupils outside of the Cluster area for Wallace Hall will begin their transition after the Easter Holidays. Parents of these pupils have found that the Belmont Trip had been key to their children making new friends and becoming settled.</p> <p>After the transition sessions Pupils will then begin their Induction days.</p>	

	<p>Wallace Hall will hold an Open Night for P7 Pupils and Parents from the Cluster area and beyond. Although WH has been prevented from advertising the Open Night in Dumfries, Pupils from Dumfries are welcome to attend.</p> <p>Pupils applying from outside the Cluster area Parent's will not be informed of a confirmed place at the School until May. A discussion took place on how that affects pupils and parents and how Schools are competing for numbers.</p> <p>It was agreed that the PC could benefit from having a presence at the Open Evening this year Tuesday the 27th November. LC, MM, MB, CC, KF volunteered to do this.</p>	
7	<p>Wallace Hall Prospectus by J. Blair</p> <p>Each year Wallace Hall aim to raise their intake of S1 pupils.</p> <p>A decision was made to produce a School prospectus to give to Parents and pupils during the Open Evening, high lighting the positives. In previous years a copy of the School Newsletter was given however this has since been stopped and news and updates are now given on the School Website.</p> <p>J B gave a draft Prospectus created up by Caroline Menzies to the members and welcomed any feedback.</p> <p>The prospectus includes information and photographs of events and trips the Pupils have been engaged in and key pieces of information. Enabling parents to discuss with their children at home.</p> <p>The feedback from members was very positive and agreed that it is well-drawn up document for Pupils and Parents to take away with them.</p>	
8	<p>S1 Parents evening update</p> <p>The PC presence at the S1 Parents evening attracted 1 new interested Parent, a few Parents interested in joining subgroups and no comments were left.</p> <p>How this can be improved was discussed. Producing a display board to give Parents more information on the work the PC is involved in and leaflets that Parents could take away with them to complete at a later date.</p> <p>LC shared her concern of how many parents were uneasy of where they needed to be for each department and it was decided a simple map could be given out as Parents sign in.</p>	
9	<p>Quiz Night reschedule</p> <p>A date is still to be confirmed for the Academy Quiz night, it is hoped to be early in the New year.</p>	

<p>10</p>	<p>Christmas Craft Fair Update by David Dillon Over 40 tables have been booked for the day. The Pupils Tea towel has been produced ready to sell on the day. This replaces the Pupils Christmas crafts that were made last year. Santa has been confirmed. It has been decided that the entry fee should be raised this year and include a hot drink and a cake.</p> <p>The focus is now to bring in as many donations as possible for the Bottle Stall and the Raffle. Pupils will be asking local businesses for contributions, members were also asked for any donations. It was suggested that any advertisement for the event could also carry a request for donations.</p> <p>A request was also made for any volunteers to help on the day with the setting out of the tables and the take down at the end of the event.</p>	
<p>11</p>	<p>Treasurer Dawn Stirk has agreed to continue as the PC Treasurer. Unfortunately DS was unable to attend the meeting. A financial report will be given at the next meeting.</p>	
<p>12</p>	<p>Co Op Funding knock back After applying on behalf of the PC for the Co Op funding MB has received notice that we were unsuccessful this time. Unfortunately there was no feedback given to progress for the next application.</p>	
<p>13</p>	<p>Road gritting Update LC looked into which roads are Primary and Secondary routes for the Council in terms of gritting priority. She has found that all the bus routes are on the Primary routes although the Head Teacher can request gritting. LC stressed that Parents should contact the school as soon as they have a concern and the School can take action.</p> <p>DD ran through the procedure of the school closing due to inclement weather conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DD will contact the bus company, Brownriggs (which is the schools main transport provider) the evening before if bad weather is forecast • Brownriggs will drive the route before the school run and notify DD on their decision • The School will then make the decision if they are to close <p>Last year unfortunately the conditions changed during the school day and this caused the disruption.</p> <p>With regards to unsafe driving (which was brought up in a previous meeting), Parents should contact the bus company directly.</p>	

<p>14</p>	<p>Pitches</p> <p>It was decided in a previous meeting that the letter to the council requesting work on the drainage of the pitches should wait until the Council has dealt with the closure of the new Dumfries Campus.</p> <p>The water logged condition of the pitches has not caused any cancelation of sporting fixtures this year.</p> <p>DB has agreed to help LC draft the letter for the PC to take to the Council.</p> <p>LC would also like to draw up a petition to give to parents to gain their views to hopefully add weight to the argument.</p>	<p>DB</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>A.O.B</p> <p>The Anti bullying Policy is due to be renewed DD welcomed any members or Parents who wish to be part of this process to contact him and will raise the matter again in the PC meeting in January.</p> <p>PC page on the School website was discussed. It was decided that the PC page could be made more prominent for easy navigation. A gmail address is to be created for parents/members to contact the PC</p> <p>wallacehallparentcouncil@gmail.com</p> <p>LC raised concern that Sub groups were not presenting to the PC at every meeting. Due to the nature of the groups it was decided that they would continue to present when the group is active.</p> <p>Sub groups and Chairs update.</p> <p>Road Safety – DD confirmed that this group has achieved everything that it can and should now be disbanded.</p> <p>Learning – This was to remain and used when there are specific issues to deal with. It was decided that these issues could be put on the meeting agenda and discussed within the meeting. A discussion took place on the current staffing issues in the Drama department.</p> <p>It was discussed if the PC could have a presence at the Nursery Celebration of Christmas on the 14th December, LS welcomed any involvement.</p>	

The next meeting will be

4th December 2018

19:00 in the Library

Appendix

Appendix A, Example S1 Report



S1 Report – November 2018 Alice Example-Report – 1C1



Dear Parent/Carer

Starting at secondary school is an exciting and nerve-wracking time for all our pupils and parents. Parents will be particularly keen to find out how well their son or daughter has settled in to life in Wallace Hall Academy. This report is designed to give an early indication of this and also to share information about how you could support your son or daughter with their school work. We have included a list of the wide range of extra-curricular clubs available across the school.



I would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to an S1 Parents' Evening on Tuesday 13th November at 5.00pm. A booking form for your son or daughter to arrange meetings with their teachers is enclosed with this report.

Yours Sincerely

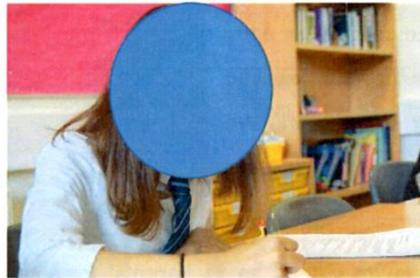
Mr John Blair

Head Teacher

Wallace Hall Academy

Comments from the Principal Teacher of Pupil Support and Depute Head Teacher about how well your son or daughter has settled in their first term at Wallace Hall Academy

Alice appears to have settled in well at Wallace Hall Academy and is making new friends and enjoying the opportunity to try different subjects. Alice has joined 1C1 with other pupils from our cluster primaries and with some pupils from further afield.



All of her teachers are very positive about the start Alice has made and have commented on her enthusiastic approach most of her subjects. Many teachers have also commented on how well Alice contributes during group or paired tasks. She excels when doing so and is very helpful to the pupils around her during such tasks and her Maths and RE teachers in particular were impressed with Alice in this area. In HE in particular she

has been identified as being very helpful around the class. Her work ethic is also very strong and her History teacher was impressed with the work she did towards the Wallace and Bruce topic the class are working on. I met with Alice and I was impressed with her mature attitude to school. I was pleased to hear how much she enjoys HE and that she was proud to have been awarded 'Chef of the week'. Alice didn't share any firm ideas she had about possible careers but was keen to do her best in all subjects and work hard in school. Well done on such a brilliant start to secondary school, keep up the good work.



Mrs Kerry Fraser

Principal Teacher Pupil Support - Cairn



Dr Ray Fulton

Depute Head Teacher - Cairn

Comments from Alice about their first term at Wallace Hall Academy

I have enjoyed my first term at secondary school. I have enjoyed making new friends and getting to know my teachers.

Ideas and suggestions on how to support S1 pupils when learning at home

Subject	Ideas about how to support learners at home.
Art	Practise observational drawing at home of natural and everyday objects to build confidence. Take some time to research artists and their work online. Pinterest is a great online resource.
Business Education and I.T.	Try to use the skills we have developed in ICT in other subjects studied in school. Keep abreast of business stories in the news on TV, on the internet or in newspapers.
Design and Technology	Make an effort to look into various designers, to discover any preferences for particular design styles. Re-visit self-evaluations of completed projects as a reminder of areas to improve.
Drama	Watch quality drama on TV or live theatrical performances whenever possible. Observe the people around you, paying particular attention to how they walk, talk and communicate.
English	Spend at least one hour per week on personal reading at home. Check over written work carefully to ensure correct sentence structures, spelling and expression.
Geography	The National Geographic Channel and website are a good resource for pupils to supplement learning that takes place within the classroom. Pupils can also watch the news or read newspapers to become aware of any topical events relating to Geography: e.g. volcanic eruptions, extreme weather events, hurricanes etc.
H.E.	Encourage pupils to help out in the kitchen and take opportunities to practise skills learned in class. Encourage pupils to look at the nutritional content of foods they are eating and purchasing in order to make informed, healthy choices.
History	Access history websites designed for children, such as 'BBC history for kids' or 'kids past' to reinforce work we have been doing in class and to learn about different time periods. Watch historical documentaries that are often on TV (iPlayer etc.) with parents and discuss the significance of events.
Maths	Be positive about maths: If someone thinks maths is difficult, it is likely that they will find it difficult! Carry out real-life calculations: activities such as shopping, cooking or travelling provide opportunities to work out costs, time intervals, weights etc. Use the S1 Maths Blog: gives powerpoint support, questions to try and links to activities to help practise maths skills (such as tables). Found at whamathss1.edublogs.org
Modern Languages	Read over classwork every week to consolidate new vocabulary. Look out for French and Mandarin words used in real-life situations.
Modern Studies	Log on to www.bbc.co.uk/news and read the main stories a few times a week. Regularly watching the news on television is also a good idea. Take your jotter home twice a month and make flashcards of any content we have covered.
Music	Listen to music in various styles, not just those that you are familiar with, such as Jazz, Classical, Rock, Blues, etc. If you have an instrument at home, practise it regularly.
P.E.	Encourage pupils to participate in as many sporting opportunities as possible, both in and out of school. Use techniques learned in class to work on fitness levels at home when possible.
Science	Make flashcards of key words from the pupil booklets. Watch science programmes and documentaries on TV. Take an interest in the world around you and discuss it with your family: e.g. Which species of animals and birds do you find in your garden or why is it harder to cycle into the wind?
RMPS	Develop their knowledge of cultural diversity through conversation and reading appropriate articles. Learn the specialist vocabulary of the subject using flashcards.

Extra-curricular clubs available for all S1 pupils at Wallace Hall Academy

<u>Club/Activity</u>	<u>Year Group</u>	<u>Who is responsible</u>	<u>Where it takes place</u>	<u>When it takes place</u>
Junior Girls' Netball	S1-3	Mr Mack + S6 Pupils	Games Hall	Tuesday lunchtime 1.30pm
School Band	S1-6	Mr Riley	Music Dept.	Tuesday lunchtime 1.30pm
Sailing Club	S1-6	Mrs Black, Mr Miller	Lochmaben Sailing Club	Tuesday 4-8.30pm <i>(selected dates Aug-Oct)</i> Tuesday 4-8.30pm <i>(May and June)</i>
Rugby: Boys and Girls	S1-6	Mr Steele, Dr Fulton, Mr Mack, Mr Torbett	PE Dept.	Wednesday 4-5pm <i>(Aug – October Holidays + Summer Term)</i>
Baking Club	S1-6	Miss Barrick	HE Kitchen	Wednesday 4-5pm <i>(August – Christmas)</i>
Equestrian Club	S1-6	Miss Barrick	HE Kitchen	Meetings to take place on Thursday at morning interval
Boys' Football	S1-6	Mr Rae, Mr Steele, Mr Lees	PE Dept./ Playing Fields	Thursday 4-5pm <i>(Aug – October Holidays)</i>
Warhammer Club	S1-6	Mrs Menzies/ John and Luke McKay	Library	Thursday 4-5pm
Fishing Club	S1-6	Mr Dillon	Dalswinton Estate	Thursday 4-8pm
Badminton Club	S1-6	PE staff	PE Dept.	Friday Lunchtime 1.30pm
Mandarin Club	S1-6	Miss Linh	A2019	Friday Lunchtime 1.30pm
Art Club	S1-6	Mrs Simpson and AH Art Class	A1031	Tuesday Lunchtime 1.30pm
S1 Lunchtime Club (games/homework help/fun!)	S1	S6 Mentors and Mrs Mack	A2023	Wednesday Lunchtime 1.30pm