**Carrick Academy Parent Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 11th November 2015**

**At 7pm**

**Meeting Room, Carrick Academy**

**In attendance** Shona Stevens - Head Teacher, Sharon Robb - Chairperson, , Alan Thom, Hugh Paterson, Moira Paton, Shona McMillan, Emma Broun, Brian Connolly, Aileen Fisher, Elaine Gibson, L. McKnight

**Apologies** Alison Purdie, Lorna Thomson, Janet Limond

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Proposed by Hugh Paterson seconded by Alan Thom

The new Chair Person was welcomed to the table & introductions made for new members.

**Letter from Douglas Hutchinson**

Shona explained the reply from Douglas Hutchinson with regards to the General Equipment Budget Cuts.

A discussion was had about what money can be spent on within budgets.

**Head Teachers Report**

**Staffing**

JoAnn Spreadbury is now on maternity leave (6 weeks earlier than planned); her post was advertised throughout South Ayrshire Council but there were no applicants.  As a result of this Heather Burrell who was doing the Acting PT Guidance has now moved back to Music as the Acting PT.  Shona requested that Ruth Collins return to school from her secondment to cover her PT Guidance post; she returned to school on Monday 2 November.

As a result of the changes to Music, there will be no School Show this Christmas.  The pupils will still be given the opportunity to perform in front of their peers on the last day of school.

Interviews for a permanent back-shift janitor will be held on the 19 November 2015.

We have vacancies in the office as Jane Cran, our Clerical Assistant  is due to retire at Christmas after many years of service within Carrick Academy; she will be missed.  We also have the post of Admin Assistant to fill; both sets of interviews will be held prior to the Christmas break.

Accommodation – South Ayrshire Council will refurbish the PE changing rooms; the work will start on the 12 February 2016 and last for 8 weeks.

Art Department has now moved into their new rooms and they are delighted!  The new environment is having a positive impact on the young people and their learning.

**Pupil Voice**

The pupils now have their own School Improvement Plan which the class representatives produced in consultation with their peers.  The majority of their requests can be undertaken; some by the school and others they will have to implement themselves.  They are being supported by their Heads of House to do this.

The School Captains attended a residential at Barcaple and the Class Representatives all went to Dumfries House; both of these events were to develop their leadership skills.

The School Captains attended the service at Maybole Town Hall for Remembrance Sunday and at the Greenside.  Iain Fisher provided the music with his bagpipes and Calum MacDonald carried the flag.

**Children in Need**

These events have been organised by the pupils, so far they have collected £400 with the final event taking place on the Friday of Children in Need.

**South Ayrshire Council Youth Forum Awards**

Our Nature Club run by Shirley Connor Science Technician was nominated for the ‘Sustainability Award’ and they have been selected as one of the finalists.  They will attend the final event which will be held in the Troon Concert Hall on the 3 December.

**Print Making**

A group of S3 pupils have completed a series of workshops on print making.  They have designed House shields for each of the 3 School Houses; their work will be displayed at the McLaurin Gallery in December.

**Curriculum for Excellence**

A number of departments are offering the new Advanced Higher this year; this is the last year of implementation for CfE.  At a recent staff meeting the departments reviewed their S1-3 curriculum taking account of recent documentation by Education Scotland to ensure that the curriculum in the junior school is building solid foundations for the move to the senior phase; this is included in development plans for this year.

**Tracking Attainment**

This was introduced last year and it had a significant impact in the professional dialogue that staff were having with young people as well as increasing communication with parents on their child’s progress; this is continuing this year with the completion of the first round of tracking in mid-October.  SMT and PTG are following up any cause for concerns’ with parents.

**How Good is Our School 4?**

The new edition of this is now available and will be used to self-evaluate our work.  Only one copy was sent out to the school but it has been copied for all PT’s; the resource is available on-line.

**Parental Events**

In recent months a Literacy and Numeracy event was held for parents of pupils in S4-6; around 30-40 parents attended this event.  The P6/7 Showcase event was held in late October with well over 100 people attending.

Our P7 Challenge Day was held at the start of the month and this was enjoyed by all those who attended.

The next event on our calendar is:

Help! I’ve got a Teenager – This parental event will take place on Tuesday 17 November from 6pm.  Workshops will include the following topics;

> Exam stress and exam success

> Let’s talk about self-harm

> Stay safe on-line

> Life after school

> Drugs and legal highs

> Study skills and new technology

> Healthy young relationships.

**Bid for Funding**

The Technology Faculty in partnership with the Parent Council were successful in securing £2500 from RBS towards the cost of a Laser Cutter.

**English Department**

Shona is not concerned about the delivery of the curriculum or the progress our young people are making.  The Acting PT is off work at present but there is an English Student taking S1-3 classes.  The Higher class is being taught by S Johnson and the N5 class is being rotated with J Stewart’s class.

In the 2015 SQA attainment results, 100% of pupils achieved National 3 and National 4 – this was above SAC and the National pattern.  At National 5, the results were in line with the authority average at 84.6% pass rate.  The pass rate at Higher was 66%.

Supported Study is offered by the department but only if pupils request the support; there is no formal set time for this.

**Chair Persons Meeting**

A summary of the meeting was given by Aileen Fisher & Elaine Gibson who attended.

Brian Connolly agreed to find out where we are now in attainment compared with the other two local authorities; previously we sat very strong being 5th out of 32.

**Correspondence**

All correspondence is being circulated by email.

**A.O.C.B**

There was a discussion around management structures, mainly why Deputy Heads are still within small Secondary Schools but are no longer in Primary Schools. Shona had no comment as had not been involved in discussions.

A hand out was given out showing the extensive Supported Study being offered by the school however disappointment was shared about their being no Supported Study from The English Department and Shona agreed to feed this back.

The P.C. agreed to provide Tea & Coffee at , “Help I’ve Got A Teenager”

**Date of next meeting**

**Monday 18th January 2016**