

Margaret House Council Minutes
19th March 2018

Chair: Beth Grant



Agenda Item:	Discussion:
1. Use of ICT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glow: good idea as it is easier to do homework, communicate with teachers and revise for exams. However, when Glow crashes or doesn't save progress this can be very problematic for both pupils and teachers. To combat this we suggested using different sites for example Twitter and Yammer to make sure that pupils are aware exactly what they need to do for homework. Some teachers don't like to use Glow or Yammer and communication becomes harder over study leave. Putting homework on Glow can sometimes be a bad idea as people can make up excuses that their internet wasn't working, Glow didn't save etc. However, we came to the conclusion that this is an individual responsibility and Glow should not be discarded as an outlet for setting homework and communicating just because a small majority of pupils cannot be trusted to complete work they are set. Also Glow can be tricky for pupils that cannot access the internet at home. However, if they make their needs known to the teacher then they will be given paper copies of homework. • Netbooks: Most of the time the netbooks do not work as the log on services do not allow pupils access. This wastes time in class and it can sometimes cause disruption to teachers' lessons as they may have planned a computer task for the lesson. To combat this we recommended investing in a good internet service, however, we realise this is easier said than done, it will be costly and it is the Falkirk Council that will have to update this.
2. Litter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We discussed that there should be more severe punishments for litter as pupils just don't seem to care. Prefects should be stricter about letting people into the corridors at break and lunch in order for the litter in the corridors and stairwells to decrease. • We discussed compulsory litter picks. A few years ago, a sponsored litter pick was organised for SCIAF, however, if the whole school were made to get involved it would demonstrate to the pupils what a laborious job littering picking is and it may give people an incentive to not drop litter. This could be advertised as a charity event like the compulsory 'Big Fit Walk' so that parents don't phone in and pupils don't complain that they are being made to pick up other people's litter.
3. Pupil Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was discussed that junior pupils would be more interested in School Scarf Group. The following pupil would like to join this group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zoe Munro • Collectively we thought that the Mental Health Awareness Group would be a good idea as it would give pupils a safe place to come and get advice from their peers and teachers involved. However, we said that their needs to be a clear outline of what this group involves. E.g. pupils may want reassurance that they would be able to be part of the group in anonymity and senior pupils may want to know the amount of commitment required as they would need to fit this group round studying for exams and working. The following pupils would like to join the Mental Health Awareness Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Molly McGarry - Beth Grant
4. Any Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some prefects are not prefecting at their required time due to the fact that they can't be bothered now that UCAS is sent away or they have now got other commitments. We suggest that there should be a marker point at Christmas (as this is when people usually stop doing prefecting) and prefects should be asked if they want to continue with their duties or not. If not then pupils who were not successful in the interview and selection process should be chosen to fill their roles. • Health & Wellbeing classes are really poorly planned as there is not a clear structure that is followed throughout the course of the year. This is frustrating for seniors as we are subjected to patronising lessons about studying techniques when the time could be better spent actually studying in our preferred way. Teachers are always different so they don't know what we are meant to be doing or can't find the PowerPoint and therefore the H & W structure is not being kept consistent. We suggest that valuable things are taught in H & W e.g. cooking, paying bills, first aid, interview skills, managing money and filling out UCAS applications for S5.