

Parent Council – Q&A responses

Q. A request for an information evening on BGE

A. Yes we would like to plan for this and include this in the annual calendar going forward. We need to plan this in to the working time agreement for staff and will factor this in for the next academic calendar.

Q. Are there any subjects that pupils would like to study which can't currently be provided at BHS?

A. None that we are aware of. We are not always able to run courses due to numbers or restrictions of the timetable. However, we have partnerships with our Neighbourhood schools and both Edinburgh and West Lothian Colleges to offer courses to pupils.

Q. Looking at choices offered from S2-S3 and then S3-S4, is the way choices are configured and offered likely to remain the same or can we expect change?

A. We are reviewing the course choice at the end of both S2 and S3, however we would not expect there to be a change away from pupils going forward to study seven national 5 qualifications in S4.

Q. A request to explore how maths overlaps between feeder primary schools and BHS?

A. We work closely with the three feeder primaries to support and to ensure that our young people have a positive experience in the continuation of their maths courses.

Q. Why does work experience happen in S4 and not S5?

A. Work experience is currently in S4 to ensure that all young people have the opportunity to experience a work placement prior to leaving school. We review this on a yearly basis and will continue to review going forward.

Q. Could NM foresee the school becoming a specialist school e.g. in music or sport?

A. There are no plans to take forward a plan for the school to a specialist school in the same manner as some schools are in the authority.

Q. From the presentation on SQA results there appears to be a drop in the number of pupils getting straight A's in Nat 5s compared with Highers. What more could be done to support those studying Highers? Suggestion made for S6 pupils to buddy S4s.

A. Continued review of the quality of the learning experience in the classroom for all pupils at all levels to improve the grades achieved at N5/H/AH. Staff are also offering an increased range of study support opportunities at lunchtime and after school. We would also propose a study support programme during the Easter holidays. We are also offering a study weekend in February, which will help pupils to develop their study skills and to receive masterclasses in some subjects. We are also looking to implement at an earlier stage the mentoring system, with staff supporting appropriate pupils to achieve their potential.

Q. Could the bulleting be posted on the website daily?

A. Yes, this has been requested and should now be happening on a daily basis.

Q. How does BHS celebrate success? Could more be done via the website to share good news?

A. We have assemblies for year groups and house assemblies to celebrate success with pupils. We also use the website and twitter to share good news. Currently trying to embed a twitter feed on

the website to allow all good news to be shared with the wider school community. We are also now using text messages and email to share information with parents.

Q. Could the website include more general information on subject areas and what is taught at different stages?

A. Yes, we are in the process of trying to develop a greater pool of staff with the skills to update each departmental page with greater information for all aspects of the curriculum. This would also include the work that the departments are doing extra-curricular as well.

Q. How could we use parental surveys more regularly in the future to gain as wide an opinion as possible?

A. Looking at upgrading the subscription we currently have with survey monkey to allow us to survey parents and then to be able to extract the data to review the feedback to support the development of the school improvement plan.

Q. Could parents get more involved in the life of the school e.g. giving information on their careers?

A. Yes, we are currently looking at developing partnership with the parents to support the school Developing Young Workforce (DYW) agenda. Ms Ranger is leading on this and will be in contact with parents in due course.

Q. Could we consider lockers for pupils who have a lot to carry?

A. Yes, the issue with lockers is the location of them in the school, to allow us to install an appropriate number. We are currently investigating this issue.