

June 2023

LandC.Cluster.PC@gmail.com



PARENT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

The Parent Council for the Langholm and Canonbie Cluster had its Summer term meeting on 15th June.

Thank you to the three parents and four teachers who came along! We'd really like to get some more parents involved so are revitalising our communications with this newsletter.

Topics discussed at the meeting were:

- School Improvement Plan
- Transitions across the cluster
- The council consultation on aligning the timetables for schools across the region
- Shift to a 6-period day at the Academy
- Format of parents evenings at the Academy
- Supporting the senior phase at the Academy as they prepare for their next destinations

If you'd like to raise an issue at the next termly meeting or if there's anything you'd like to discuss, please get in touch with me using the email address LandC.Cluster.PC@gmail.com

Colin Cox
Chair
Langholm and
Canonbie Cluster
Parent Council



HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT



Cluster head Lauren MacLean-Gill gave a report to the meeting about the School Improvement Plan. Achievement scores that are measured at P1, P4, P7 and S3 continue to be excellent, and of course the Academy has just had a very positive inspection result. Key priorities for next year include:

- To improve the pace of teaching and learning, taking into account the views of young people and making sure they experience the right level of challenge in their learning.
- To increase levels of ambition and aspiration for young people in Langholm and Canonbie schools. This includes a focus on access to a broader, more diverse curriculum and higher quality passes in national qualifications.

CUTS TO SCHOOL FUNDING

Dumfries and Galloway Council has agreed a budget that includes proposals for minimum class sizes across secondary schools. If fully implemented, many senior phase subjects would no longer be offered in Langholm Academy, putting at risk some of the recent improvements in the curriculum. If you are concerned about this please get in touch with the Council at contact@dumgal.gov.uk, and let your local Councillor know. The Parent Council will also get involved in any future discussions about this.

CONSULTATION: CHANGING THE SECONDARY TIMETABLE

As part of Dumfries and Galloway's Transformational Work there is a proposal for all secondary schools to move to the same timetable structure with full alignment of the Senior Phase (S4-6).

This change will see all secondary schools run the same structure; the number of periods and their duration, the times for break(s) and lunch will coincide and start/finish times will all be consistent in all secondary schools.

The idea is that as well making staffing more efficient, this will allow pupils from one school to access lessons hosted by another school, either in person or online, in order to provide young people with the widest range of choice for learning in the senior phase.

This consultation aims to gather the thoughts and opinions of all stakeholders to inform the specific timetable structure due to be introduced in August 2024.

All responses are anonymous and will form part of a report due to be published in October 2023.

Please visit
<https://forms.office.com/e/JrF5HqA7vu> to take part in this consultation.

TRANSITIONS

At this time of year many pupils are preparing to come to school for the first time, to make the transition from primary to secondary, or are already moving to new years in the senior phase. Depute Head Karen Vidler gave the Parent Council a summary of the approach that has been taken to this in the two primaries, which the pupils appear to have enjoyed and gained a lot from. If your child has been involved in one of these transitions and you'd like to give feedback for future years please let us know at
LandC.Cluster.PC@gmail.com

CELEBRATING PARENT VOLUNTEERS!

We know that there are many parents out there who contribute to the life of the school in many ways and we'd love to hear from you! Maybe there's someone you'd like to thank or someone who makes a difference who deserves a bit of recognition - send us your news and success stories and we'll feature them in the next edition of the newsletter.

ABOUT THE PARENT COUNCIL

The Parent Council exists to represent the views of parents to the school and to support it to improve the experience of all children at the school. We meet with the teaching staff every term. We are always looking out for new members who want to contribute to the life of the school and we are looking for a new secretary. If you're interested please get in touch by emailing
LandC.Cluster.PC@gmail.com