



## ST ALOYSIUS' COLLEGE

### **PARENTS' CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018**

#### **Attendees:**

Mr Norton, Mrs Morris, Mrs Boyle, Mr Ferguson, Mrs Lind, Mr McCusker, Mrs McLernon, Mr Freer, Mr McMenemy, Mrs Haddow

Mr M D Bartlett (Chair), Dr A Brady, Dr C Kilgour, Mr J Cluckie, Mr P Fitzpatrick

Apologies: Mrs Erskine, Mr McLay, Mrs Radcliffe, Mrs Fraser

#### **Minutes:**

Mr Bartlett welcomed everyone to the meeting, noted absences (as above)

There were no corrections to the minutes, no matters arising and actions would be dealt with during the meeting

#### ***1. You asked...we did***

Mrs Sweeney answered questions on parent pay and by example showed how a report was possible on what a student had spent. A parent raised the issue of whether it was possible to limit the spend of a Junior School student. Mrs Sweeney suspected this might not be possible but agreed to check what was feasible and respond directly to the parent.

Mr Bartlett reported on the success of the Parents' retreat and how the attendees had been universally positive. He felt it had identified how parents were another group within our community which we needed to reach out to and support spiritually. The arrival of Father Kensy Joseph SJ would be of real benefit. It was agreed that testimonies from the retreat would be useful and that these would be posted on the website. A prayer group was being established for parents on a Tuesday morning followed by tea and coffee and this was being advertised to all parents. This was warmly welcomed.

#### ***2. Presentation on a matter related to student wellbeing***

##### ***Junior School Reading Programme***

Mrs Carmichael and Mrs Brown gave a detailed presentation on the new reading scheme being introduced from P1 in the Junior School. This new scheme had significant benefits, not least in the banding of books for keen readers, a balance between fiction and non fiction whilst retaining the structure and proven methods of the old scheme which in terms of the actual texts needed development. This was received positively although parents were keen to assure themselves that as a new scheme it was appropriately tested out. Other schools were also using the scheme and Mrs Carmichael explained how there would be parental workshops before the scheme was rolled out.

##### ***Use of ipads and devices and keeping students safe***

Mr Cluckie joined the meeting to outline the background and developments to the ipad programme. He also demonstrated the Apple Classroom software which was being introduced to ensure that young people were focusing on work related use of ipads rather than any other uses during school time. There was considerable discussion about who took responsibility for the use of devices and some concerns were raised about students not

always using their devices appropriately. The consensus of the meeting was that this was a matter in which young people had to develop responsibilities in a controlled and partially regulated environment. There was also some discussion about whether the school should provide a device but after lengthy discussions it was felt that this would be a further implication for fees and the desire to restrict further rises meant this was not a feasible way forward. It was also noted that ownership tended to encourage responsibility with some students keeping one ipad for the whole of their school career

### ***Senior School Rewards and Colours***

Mr Fitzpatrick explained the thinking behind rewards and colours and why he was working with young people to ensure that they reflected all the areas of achievement and engagement. There was some discussion as to the merits of the red (5 A) band, with a variety of views being expressed. Parents felt that this was a matter which students should have ownership and therefore Mr Fitzpatrick was thanked for his willingness to continue to review with our Student Councils this matter on an ongoing basis.

### ***Review of ongoing or forthcoming developments***

Dr Kilgour presented an update paper on tracking and assessment and magis curriculum. This was received with no further comments.

### ***4. Other matters raised by parents***

#### **Fees: method of communication for 2019/20 increase**

The Head Master explained that he had received feedback as to the fee increase, but more specifically as to how this had been communicated. He stressed that the Governors had no desire to be anything other than up front and straightforward in their communications and asked for feedback as to how the communication could be improved going forward. It was felt that a letter which clearly set out the increase and explained the reasons for this together with a summary of the benefits of an Aloysian education would be well received. The Head Master agreed that this would be fully communicated to the Chairman when they met and he was sure that it would be met with customary openness.

Other matters were to be dealt with by the Junior School and the matter of parking via an email to all parents.

**The meeting concluded at 9.00pm**