



Broughton High School Parent Council Management Support Group Update Report - 11 May 2011

Introduction

The MSG continues to meet twice per term, typically with around 6 participants present from a pool of 12-15. We have been unsuccessful in securing the active and regular involvement of the Head Boy and Head Girl this year, but continue to enjoy a strong and constructive relationship with Lesley and with members of the Senior Leadership Team.

The range of topics covered continues to be as diverse as ever; this paper draws attention to persistent and significant issues in recent months.

New Timetable

Following consultation over several months, a new 32-period timetable will be implemented from 13 June. This will not only better support the interdisciplinary elements of Curriculum for Excellence, but will also make more cost-effective use of teaching time.

Absence Management

Absence and lateness continue to be persistent problems, and there is a clear link between good attendance and good results – perhaps a difference of one grade at Standard Grade level, from a difference of 10% in attendance levels. This is an area where we should consider an action plan for next year.

School Website

After a long gestation period, a working version of the new school website is due for release some time this month. This will continue to be evolved and developed once it goes live, so please take the time to explore the site, and make suggestions for improvements.

Education Cuts

Following a well-attended and active public meeting with several MSPs and Councillors in January, and the publication of my Evening News article in February, we hosted a further public meeting on 1 March, attended by Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP and local Councillor David Beckett.

However, despite considerable lobbying by ourselves and many other schools, the Council pressed ahead with significant cuts in both schools and in the central offices. Both the detail and the timing of the implementation are still being worked out, but the impact will start to be felt next year.

Although Broughton is somewhat fortunate to have moved to a faculty model some time ago, the staff budget savings from having fewer department heads had been redeployed to provide support in other areas, so we will still be impacted by the reductions in budgets for promoted posts.

School Roll

Our school roll is predicted to rise to just over 900 in 2011/12, which is a strong indication of the growing strength and reputation of the school. Key factors in us sustaining our roll, and continuing to attract pupils from outwith our catchment area, include our three specialist units (music, dance and football), and a further increase in the proportion of pupils staying on from S4 to S5 and from S5 to S6.

Retirement of Head Teacher

Following Lesley's announcement of her intent to retire this summer, we need to be prepared for involvement in the selection process for a new Head Teacher. The timing of this is yet to be confirmed. In the meantime it would be helpful if:

- any parents / carers already authorised for involvement in interviews could make themselves known
- any parents / carers keen to be involved in the process, but requiring training / authorisation, could note their interest as soon as possible.

Search for New Chair

With my son leaving S6 this year, I will not be a Broughton parent for the 2011/12 school year. I have therefore announced my intent to stand down from the Chair of the Management Support Group with effect from the AGM in September.

Anyone interested in understanding more about what the role involves, or who wishes to put themselves forward for the role, should contact me for further information.

Meeting Dates

There is only one more meeting scheduled this school year – on Tuesday 7 June.