

Peebles High School

Parent Council

**NOVEMBER 2020
E-NEWSLETTER**

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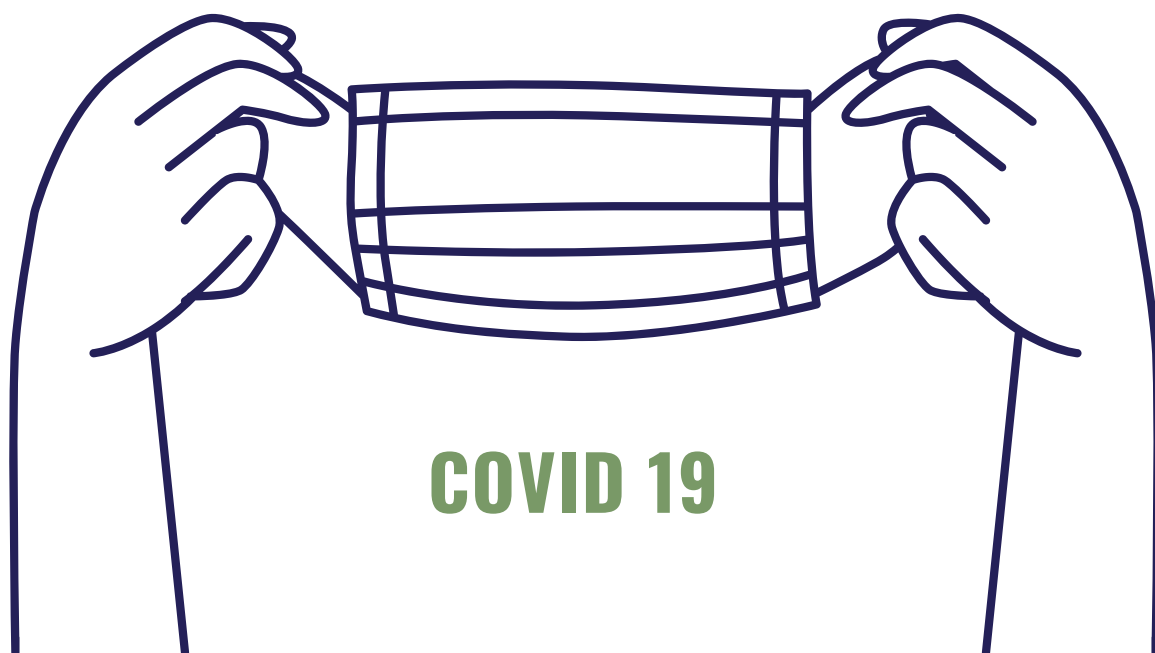
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**WELCOME TO OUR LATEST
NEWSLETTER AND UPDATE
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
PARENT COUNCIL THIS
TERM.**



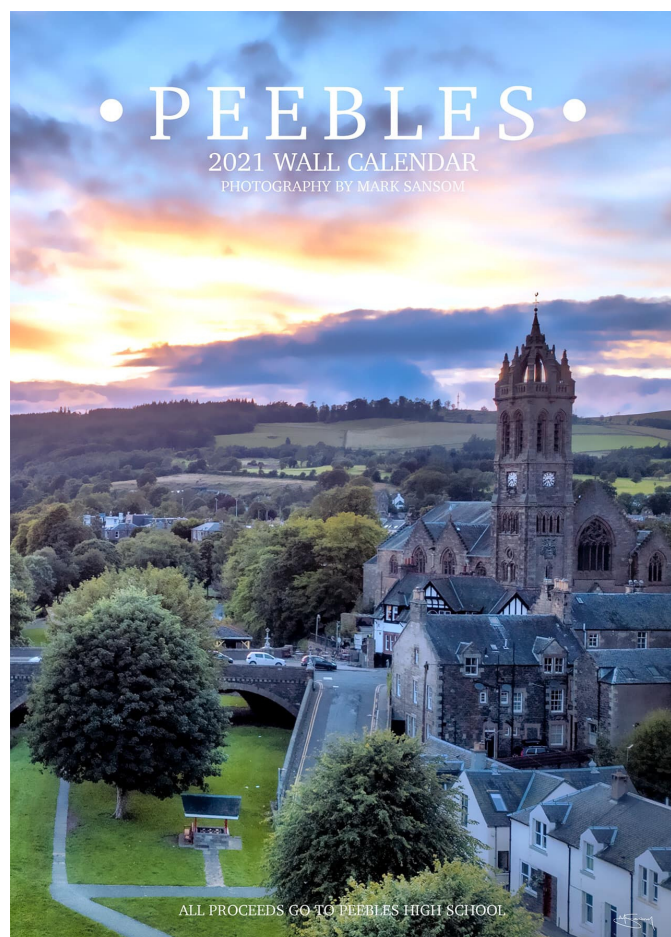
We are very grateful to the school for all the hard work that has gone into the start of the session and in particularly working hard to protect students and staff during this difficult time with the Global pandemic given the levels of the infection in our local community.

Thank you for all the efforts and adaptations that you have had to make, which we know is not by choice, but necessity and it has not been easy all round.

Thanks to Mr Wilson for your weekly updates this is much appreciated. However, as ever, Peebles High and our community are rallying round to give everyone the best experience they can under the circumstances.

*"Thank you for your
patience, resilience and
forbearance at yet
another challenging time
for our community." -
Campbell Wilson, Rector*





HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT OUR GREAT NEW CALENDAR?

One of our fab parent helpers has produced a fantastic calendar featuring photos of Peebles to raise funds for Peebles High School.

A great Christmas gift!

Please purchase through Parentpay and arrange for your young person to collect from the school office after payment has been made.

Or pop in The Gift Shop or Whities

Any questions? please email
PHSPC@outlook.com

With grateful thanks to ex pupil Mark Samsom and Lemon Digital and a MASSIVE thanks to our clerk Claire Barrett for the initiative and dedication!



PARENT COUNCIL PRIORITIES


A word from the Chair



"We would like to thank the Parent Council attendees for all their hard work. These parents and carers have worked tirelessly to ensure that school have all the support they need from us as well as working in partnership to overcome key challenges."

Working groups have been designed by partnering with school looking at the School Improvement Plan (SIP) to assist in its delivery and also how we can influence and shape this going forward. Our thanks to Mr Wilson, SLT and staff for all their efforts to work collaboratively with us "


Top Priorities



Continue to represent parents' voices and support the school in delivering the very best of education and school life for all pupils



Ensuring we are an inclusive school, meeting the needs of all learners and this is being led through our **Neurodiversity** group



Learning and teaching effectiveness is the biggest single priority impacting outcomes of young people. We are working with Mr Noon and Dr Carvalho



Reviewing the current **curriculum** and asking the question is it time just now to change or not?



The School rebuild and improving the current site. We are working with the school and SBC on this



Eco Group - Ensuring that our school meets the challenges of the Climate emergency



Get our "**Friends of Peebles High Charity**" up and running and trying to fundraise in a Covid safe way




Giving our young people every opportunity to reach for their stars with their aspirations in further/Higher education

WANT TO KNOW MORE?


The working groups along with their aims, objectives are on our website [please click here](#) if you want to know more about them
A summary of activities is included in the following pages

PARENT COUNCIL PRIORITIES


REPRESENTING PARENTS



Since August, the Parent Council has held monthly remote meetings, alongside topical extra meetings (S1 focus, SQA exam changes etc). So far we have had an average of around 60 parents joining us per meeting which is more than double our normal attendance levels!. We are delighted to welcome you to our online meetings and thank you for responding to our survey at the end of the meeting: this is very helpful to shaping the agenda and meetings going forward.



We have recently shown through some research that we are fully representative of all school catchment areas from Walkerburn to Innerleithen, Peebles, Broughton, Tweedsmuir, Eddleston, Romano Bridge and West Linton. This is very important to us as we want to hear everyone's voices. Thank you to Vanessa Rice for her work on this.



However, as yet we are not representative of all parents WITHIN each catchment and we are keen to improve this. It is crucial to us that everyone has a voice no matter who you are or where you live. We would welcome all ideas please as to how we can improve our representation across all parents to our email at phspc@outlook.com

LEARNING AND TEACHING

We are working in the Learning and teaching group to generate a new Learning and teaching framework working alongside the recent full school survey, This is one of the key areas evidence tells us will make the most difference to outcomes and we aim to have excellence in practice. This is being conducted in a unique and highly inclusive way to create real improvements for our children. Many thanks to Mr Noon and Dr Carvalho for including us all the way.



PARENT COUNCIL PRIORITIES



BUILDING

The Buildings group have worked with both elected members, the council and school to work in partnership to ensure a successful rebuild of the school in line with the Parent Council Vision.

In addition, we have been working to improve the current site to improve learning e.g. in Art and Enhanced provision. Latterly we have been aiming to improve outside shelters for the bad weather that is now upon us and during Covid 19.

We are delighted to hear an additional £10 M is being added to the proposed bid for funding for the rebuild now reaching £40M and we have been awarded £20,000 towards outdoor learning and shelters from SBC as you may have recently seen on Facebook.

Thanks to the hard work of this group and SBC liaison Catriona Bhatia, group leader Sarah Duncan our Vice-Chair and parent Tristan Compton working with Support for Learning /drama staff and students to prepare a great proposal for funding of the shelters.



FRIEND OF PHS CHARITY / FUNDRAISING

Since our last meeting, Royal Bank of Scotland has now approved digital banking access, and this is now fully operational. Registration of the Charity with HMRC to enable Gift Aid eligibility was submitted four weeks ago. Their response is expected within the next two weeks, which should enable positive confirmation at the next PC meeting. We are planning to hold a meeting of Trustees during November 2020, to discuss amongst other things, fund raising opportunities like our Calendar. Many thanks to Eric Nightingale, Claire Barrett and Sarah Keen for all their work in this area.

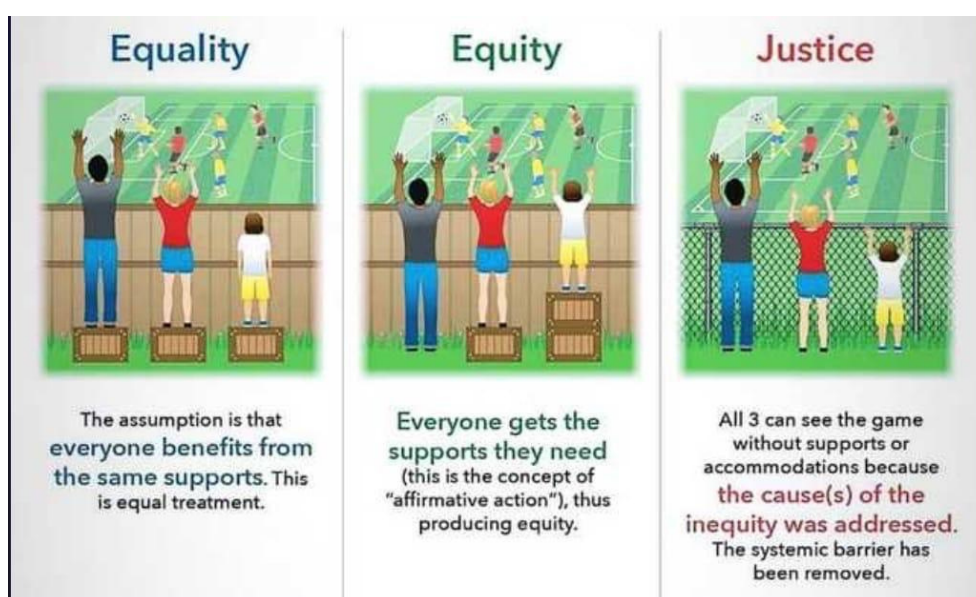


PARENT COUNCIL PRIORITIES



NEURODIVERSITY

The Neurodiversity group is working in partnership with the school to increase resources for parents and carers who have children who may have a diagnosis of e.g. Dyslexia, Autism, ADHD, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia and others. The group aims to improve awareness and understanding of these conditions to ensure equity, improve the learning experience for all and ensure neurodiverse conditions are not a barrier to achievement.



CURRICULUM REVIEW GROUP

The Curriculum review group are looking into whether we should consider a different timing for making course choices, and change the number of courses studied for.

A key step has been to analyse all data received from parents (sterling job, vice chair Susan Jarvis & parents in this group who help with analysis and scrutinising the findings). The group has worked with the school with a view to overlaying the quantitative research from parents with Mr Wilson's focus groups results.

The school are now considering this along with other key considerations, and we expect a final view on this very shortly.



PARENT COUNCIL PRIORITIES



ECO GROUP

Our Eco Group would like to return our school to the previous status of being a “ Plastic free school” which we were before the Covid outbreak. This crisis has resulted in the increase use of plastic which was unavoidable initially to prevent infection. The group have partnered with the council/ elected members to work collaboratively to support the Regions plans to respond to the Climate Emergency and also to work across all schools in the region.

Many thanks to Ms Waterson, Vice Chair Susan Jarvis and all parents and young people in this group.

ADMISSIONS

Work has been ongoing with students for the deadline of applications to veterinary and medicine for the 15th October and students have been supported to improve their personal statements and applications/preparation for exams by skilled volunteers.

Furthermore, a database of parents to support a wider range of applicants has been built for the January UCAS deadline.

This is off to a flying start!

Thanks in particular to Ruth Docherty, Mairi Stark and Alex Corbishley

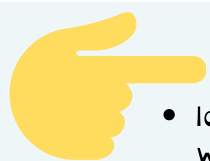


INTERESTED? / WANT TO KNOW MORE?

The working groups are open to new members so please do not hesitate to come forward even if you feel you have not a lot of time to give!

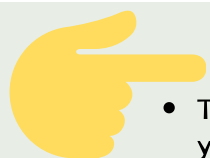
Email PHSPC@outlook.com who will put you in touch with the relevant team

GET INVOLVED



WHAT WE DO

- Identify and represent the views of parents on matters relating to the education and welfare of our children;
- Communicate and report back to parents and carers
- Work actively with the school, its pupils, parents and local communities to help every child reach their full potential;
- Lobby and advocate for the needs of parents and our children;
- Develop and engage in activities that support the school in relation to the education and welfare of our children, including influencing the School Improvement Plan (SIP);
- Raise funds for additional facilities and resources for the school and provide further financial support in relation to educational and extra-curricular activities of our children;
- Work with school staff to create a welcoming school which is modern, inclusive and vibrant.



WHAT WE DON'T DO

- The first port of call if you have a concern is the school - please **always** try to talk to your child's pastoral teacher first to resolve worries or concerns;
- As much as is humanly possible, we are there to represent the views and interests of the whole of the parents / carers population - members and meeting attendees are kindly asked not to push their own personal agenda, or use the group to escalate isolated issues

TOP TIP

If you want to read more, you'll find guidelines through The Scottish Parent Teacher Council (search for : "guidelines for PC committee members from Connect)

OUR VALUES

Purposeful – with clear objectives and priorities

Respectful – of the views and work of others

Team-based – working well across groups

Ambitious – with high aims to deliver as quickly as possible

Inclusive – of others impacted by our work

Altruistic – working for the good of all pupils in the school

Active – positively challenging to affect change at all levels

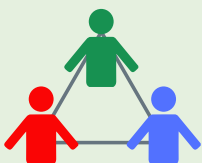
Effective – in achieving our aim

COME AND GET INVOLVED!

(solemn promise: you can do as much or as little as you want!)

- We meet monthly (roughly) - join us when you can!
- Contribute your thoughts, ideas, and feedback either at the meetings or outside of those
- Get involved as and when in mini working groups (specific topic / set timescales)
- Consider a more formal role that makes the most of your skills. Your arm won't be twisted we promise!. The roles are continually tweaked to ensure they fit into our busy lives - details of those are on the school website (parent zone / parent council)
- There are also occasional opportunities to support specific events - keep an eye out for those

CONNECT WITH US



PHS Parents



@PHSParents



[PHSParents .org.uk](https://www.phsparents.org.uk)



PHSPC@outlook.com