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## **Parent Voice**

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021, online, 6-6.45pm**

### **Present:**

**Charlie Ac**

**Clare Gale**

**Sue Johnson**

**Ruth Kimberlee**

**Caroline Rideout**

**Mary O'Toole (Chair)**

**Taryn Nixon (Secretary – minutes)**

**Susie Hall (Committee)**

**Guy Rapson (Committee)**

**Alan Salt (Principal)**

**Kirsty Matthews (Deputy Principal)**

**Apologies: Emma Blackstock, Ben Cotton**

### **1. Welcome and introductions.**

Mary welcomed everyone; introductions were made through the chat bar. Apologies were received from Ben Cotton who was dealing with the latest Government guidance, just received, on grading assessment.

### **2. Minutes of the last PV**

Mary referred to the minutes of the Parent Voice held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020, which were available on the KEVICC website. The minutes were approved. All the actions had been completed, specifically:

- There had been ongoing discussion with Kirsty Matthews about outdoor seating and the break-time equipment that KEVICC wished to put in place;
- The Committee had begun planning for a fundraising campaign and had set up a Giveway donation site;
- At the AGM on 29<sup>th</sup> January (minutes of which are available on the KEVICC website), the following Committee members had been elected and re-elected: Mary O'Toole – Chair; Taryn Nixon – Secretary; Becky Snow – Treasurer; Emma Blackstock; Ivan O'Toole; and Guy Rapson; Susie Hall was coopted onto the Committee in February.

### 3. Survey results

Taryn summarized the results of the PA's online Spring Survey. The Committee was grateful for the great response, with 203 answers, lots of invaluable feedback and offers of help both direct and indirect. There had been resounding support for Better Break-times as a fundraising priority and for supporting the Reading Strategy.

Over 130 parents and carers had signed up to keep in touch by email, and there were many offers of help with running the bar in support of KEVICC events, and organizing PA events such as a summer afternoon event and a November fireworks evening. There was also clear support for a Christmas raffle and potentially a pop-up market supporting local and student businesses and crafts. There were good fundraising ideas and it was hoped that a small fundraising group could help to launch a Better Break-times campaign, to include grant applications and approaches to organisations outside KEVICC.

There were over 150 feedback comments and ideas, including feedback for KEVICC which the Committee would discuss with the Senior Leadership Team after the Easter break. Mary had emailed the c.15 people who had offered practical help with fundraising, marketing and other ideas. The survey findings would be fed back to parents and carers by email. **Action: Taryn.**

The Committee would liaise with Kirsty over items that the PA could provide funding for next term, such as outdoor seating, table-tennis tables, outdoor gym equipment and shelters. **Action: Taryn and Mary.**

### 4. PA funding

Mary reported that the PA has just over £6,000 in the bank. £300 had been provided since the last PV meeting for KEVICC Canon incentive vouchers and £250 had been committed to for football and netball kit for Better Break-times; **Action: Becky to liaise with Marie Trant.**

Budgeting for PA-organised events is underway (eg to identify the sum needed to stage a fireworks event), and the committee expects to be able to offer grants to KEVICC around the end of April/early May.

The School Lottery has grown and now brings in c. £1,800 a year. The Givey platform has not been formally launched yet but has raised £145. Around 50% of Survey respondents said they would use a 'give as you shop' app; a new Easy Fundraising account has been set up and this, too, will be launched as part of the fundraising campaign. Kirsty had raised £1,000 through Tesco, which had enabled KEVICC to run roller-skating in the gym. Sue commented that the Co-Op Community Fund is offering £250 grants.

[Post-meeting note: HMRC has now confirmed that the PA is eligible to claim Gift Aid on qualifying donations; the Committee will review donations over the last four years with a view to reclaiming Gift Aid retrospectively].

## **5. Questions and suggestions raised with KEVICC**

Questions and discussion covered a wide range of topics including:

- Arrangements for GCSE and A level grading assessment: Alan outlined proposals (as provided by email to all parents) and confirmed that the Year 11 leavers' date would be in the last week of May (as in previous years); those going on to Kennicott may be offered a bridging activity.
- Involving new starters and new parents: Alan confirmed that the link to the PA would be sent to Year 6 new starters. The performing arts team would be staging some performances just for Year 6s and 7s.
- Kirsty had secured grant funding to carry out an important survey on the use of and sense of safety on school grounds, to inform the College's actions on supporting mental health and mental health awareness at school. This will involve students in identifying the needs and working with them on the solutions that will support their development. Kirsty will let the PA know when the online student survey is due to be launched.
- Mobile phones. Further to previous discussions of this topic, it was noted that one of the hopes for Better Break-times was to create positive alternatives for students so they would not want to spend time on their phones. Student feedback on use of mobile phones will be included in the survey.
- Recent media coverage on 'All are invited': the College is well aware of this, takes safeguarding extremely seriously, encourages young people to report and is continuously looking for improvement; the legislation is updated annually and this is core training for staff.
- COVID testing kits and COVID safety were discussed and recent guidance restated.
- Bus route safety issues had been raised; the College is aware of these; it is not possible to give out personal details for data protection reasons. AS would liaise with the parent directly.
- Q&A sessions with the Principal would be continuing.
- There is a wish to re-start the homework club when permissible and practical but there is no date as yet.
- It was intended to repair and reopen the burned-out changing rooms and an insurance claim had been filed.

**The next Parent Voice is due to take place around the middle of the summer term.**

End