



ST MODAN'S PTP MEETING

Thursday 18th June 2020

Attendees: E. Fitzpatrick, M. Dawson, L. Baxter, E. McArthur, V. McQue, G. Ryan, M. McQue, K. Devaney, A. DeVries, T. Joyce, P. Kerr, V. Ryan, D. O'Reilly, M. Taggart, C. Mitchell, L. Gordon, C. Malcolm, F. Fowler, M. Campbell, J. Murphy, R. Barrett, K. Zdunek, M. Lewinska, M. Boyle, W. Beirne, J. Bruce, S. McLaren, L. Moffat, J. Hamill, T. Morrison, C. Holden, D. Burns, B. Cooper, C. Friel, C. Pert, M. Ramsay

Apologies: M. McGuckin, A. Rough

	The Meeting opened with the school prayer followed by a welcome to everyone and in particular new parents and those who had not attended before.	
Welcome, Introductions & Apologies	Clare introduced Mrs Friel, Acting Head Teacher, Mrs Pert Deputy Head and Mrs Ramsay, Principal Teacher of Health and Wellbeing at St. Modan's.	Chair
Update on how the meeting will work	Clare introduced the logistics of the meeting, not to record, that information shared was confidential and should only be communicated from the school or PTP. She also went on to reiterate all information shared this evening will be current as of 6.30pm and as things are changing on a daily basis, it may not be accurate tomorrow. She encouraged people to say Hi in the comments box and post any questions they may have, they will try and answer them throughout the meeting however if not, they will produce an FAQ document to share.	Chair
Head teacher Update	Mrs Friel is currently our Acting Head Teacher following Mr O'Neill's retirement at the end of March. The HT Job was advertised and has had a number of applications however; this is too important a role not to give the candidates the full interview. It is important for the school to get the children back to learning and also give the candidates the opportunity to meet with the staff, children, school community and have	Chair



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	<p>a proper face to face interview (and not virtual). We will update further once the children are back at school.</p>	
<p>Blended Learning – What this looks like for St. Modan's Pupils (all subject to change)</p>	<p>Mrs Friel started by thanking parents and staff for the support she has had. Highlighted that St. Modan's is unique as it serves 3 local authorities.</p> <p>The Timetable is currently looking at Blended Learning, however this is only if the children are not back Full Time in August and it will be a mixture of school and home learning. She has done many versions of the timetable, 7 in fact! If Blended Learning goes ahead, then S1-S6 will be split into Group A and Group B, however this has still to be confirmed and details will be communicated as soon as the school are able to do so.</p> <p>Things that have been taken into consideration have been: Siblings, Transport, and Subjects.</p> <p>Looking for year 6 to help with social distancing and becoming role models.</p> <p>Mrs Pert has had virtual meetings with the S6 who will be really important to support the new S1 into St. Modan's. They have had buddy training and the management are very impressed with the enthusiasm and motivation from them all.</p> <p>There will be different areas within the school playground, S1, S5 and S6 will have a different interval and lunchtime than S2, S3 and S4 all to minimise traffic and keep everyone safe (again this is all subject to blended learning)</p> <p>Marquees have been bought to have outside to ensure that the children remain dry, as they will not be able to hang around in the atrium.</p>	<p>Mrs. Friel & Mrs Pert</p>



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Parents are asked to provide packed lunches if possible.

Uniforms are to be worn, these can be ordered online at Scotcrest in Alva and they will deliver or you can click and collect. School shoes are uniform, not trainers.

P7 to S1 will have a transition meeting on Tuesday night for all new parents coming to St. Modan's in August. Information will be sent to Primary schools to share with P7 Families. There are currently some transitions taking place for ASN children. PSD teachers will be phoning round to speak to all children in the coming days to have a chat and welcome them to the school.

All S1 – S3 children will have chrome books and an email has been sent out to support those young people in S4-6 who do not, ensuring everyone has access to technology.

Buses are one of the biggest barriers currently being faced. The office staff will begin to call round parents/carers to see if by opening early, they would be able to drop their children at school which would free up space on the bus for those families who have no access to transport. The school and bus company are working closely with one another trying to come up with plans, contingencies and alternatives.

Toilets will be manned and a cleaner will be in during the day in the school.

There is a lot of hard work going on in the background to ensure the environment is a safe place for both pupils and staff to return in August.



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<p>Supporting Our Children's Mental Health & Well Being</p>	<p>Mrs Ramsay took us through a variety of different things in place to improve health and well being of the children and staff at St. Modan's and assured us that our children's wellbeing is of utmost importance on their return to school and throughout their education.</p> <p>She talked about the Covid-19 survey, which has been posted, into all PSD Google Classroom, encouraging us to get our children to complete it. This will give specific information on St. Modan's young people and really help the school help our children.</p> <p>The Mental Health Ambassadors have some videos on their twitter page and would encourage everyone to follow them on Twitter.</p>	<p>Mrs. Ramsay</p>
<p>Close of Meeting</p>	<p>Thanks were given to all the Parents and carers who dialled in to this meeting and confirmation that the response to the questions in the chat box would be responded to.</p> <p>There is also a campaign being run by Connect (former SPTC) to encourage parents to speak up, talk about their challenges, concerns around blended learning and their children returning to school on a part time basis as well as the buses situation then to send letters and emails to their MSP or MP.</p>	<p>Chair</p>

New Email for the PTP is ptpstmodans@gmail.com

FAQ from the Meeting



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Transport

Buses need to be looked at, is there any way they can let us know how many children the 651 (for example) can take and how many spaces they need to free up. Or can they give us a time limit on how long they are asking parents to drop off and pick up i.e. from Aug-Oct then review again.

This is the process that we are currently working our way through. Our admin staff are beginning to phone families to try to reduce the numbers on buses that have been identified as oversubscribed.

What about people who go on buses but are willing to take them in cars and maybe cannot afford the petrol, is there a possibility of any reimbursement for this?

We are unsure if this is possible but will raise the question with Stirling Council.

What happens with children who are attending college on Tues/Fri afternoons? Do they still get taxis from the school or will parents be responsible for getting them there?

We are still awaiting guidance from FVC regarding their plans for course delivery. It is possible that their courses might be delivered via distance learning to begin with. We will need to review risk assessments in August to determine if taxis can still be used as a means of transport.

Regarding transport. Rather than buy a bus, have we thought about utilising minibuses either through the three local authorities or hiring them short term? This would enable parents like me to volunteer to drive them. I have lots of experience driving 17 seater vehicles and would be happy to offer my services. (Angus Holden)

We aren't considering buying a bus but were using that as an example of how we have been examining all potential solutions. A mini-bus is not going to be an efficient or cost-effective solution due to the very small number of young people that could be seated whilst maintaining social distancing guidelines. We believe that this could be as small as 3 pupils on a large mini-bus. However, we really appreciate your offer of help.



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Accommodation

Can the school get portacabins to help create more space?

We have previously looked at getting a portacabin to support the development of vocational courses within the training centre. We had been offered one at a minimal cost. However, it was going to cost at the very minimum £20,000 to put in the required ground works. Therefore, this has not been considered as a possible means of gaining additional space for what could be a very short-term requirement. We have provisionally booked facilities at Forthbank for additional space should we require it and are looking at whether it is possible or necessary to book facilities at the Peak. However, this would be to support us to manage 50% capacity rather than allowing us to increase the % of young people that we can have in school any further. We would really need a change in social distancing guidelines to do that.

Timetable/School Week

How are you deciding on how the existing classes will be split into A and B?

It has not been an easy task to split existing classes into A and B groupings. We have prioritised factors such as siblings, buses and option choices when doing so. This has been a huge undertaking to manage to do this with over 1000 pupils across three Local Authorities to consider.

When will they get their timetables? And find out which teachers they will be getting?

Young people will be provided with their timetables on their Induction Day in August.

Are friend groups being considered with the A /B split then if you are considering the kids mental health and wellbeing?

We completely understand the anxiety and concern that will exist around friendship groups being split across the A and B groupings and would love to be able to take this into consideration. However, it is just not possible when we have to prioritise siblings, buses and option choices. Each class across the school needs remain at or below capacity and any movement can have a knock on effect across the board. We will be working very hard to support our young people to cope with the challenges of the situation that we face and will support them to develop the resilience to cope with this. We need to remind them that this is for a very short time and that they have already shown a great deal of strength when dealing with the uncertainty and isolation of lockdown.



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Will it be taken into account when groups are made up that some kids are completing schoolwork and some are not?

There are lots of reasons behind different levels of engagement with online learning during this period and it is very important that young people are not disadvantaged because they have been unable to do so. Equally, our young people who have been working very hard over this time period should not be expected to 'tread water' whilst waiting for others to catch up. For these very reasons, we have asked all of our teachers to be mindful of this when posting work during this period. The work posted has been designed to support them to consolidate their prior learning and provide context to the courses that they will begin in August. Our teachers are very skilled in managing the needs of all learners and differentiating learning and activities according to individual need. Therefore, this will not have an influence on the groupings of young people into As and Bs.

Logistics

What about toilet breaks?

Young people will be able to access the toilets at interval and lunchtime. They will be expected to maintain social distancing and strict hand washing routines. We always discourage the use of toilets during class time because of the impact on learning and teaching and concerns regarding supervision at this time. However, we recognise that this is not always possible and they will be able to ask individual teachers for permission to go to the toilet. They will need to be responsible when doing so and maintain social distancing and strict hand washing routines.

PE Changing rooms, will they be able to wear PE Shorts/Hoodies when they have PE - more a question for Nat 5 PE and Higher PE

We have designed the timetable to allow for larger blocks of learning minimising the number of transitions during the school day. This will help to reduce the frequency of young people being required to use the changing facilities.

To reduce the pressure on changing facilities further, young people who are timetabled for PE first thing in the day will be allowed to wear their PE kit to school and bring their uniform with them to change into later. PE staff will stagger changing times to allow social distancing guidelines to be maintained. Young people who are timetabled for PE last thing in the day will be allowed to remain in their kit and take their uniform home with them in a bag.

Are the kids allowed to bring in school bags? As a few primary schools are not allowing them

Yes, young people will be allowed to bring in their school bags. They will not have access to locker facilities until social distancing guidelines are changed to such a degree to allow this be done safely. They will have fewer subjects during the day and should only bring the materials required for each day.



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Uniform

If the kids are being made to go outside at breaks is the jacket/uniform rule going to be relaxed or will all the kids still get the opportunity to visit lockers prior to going outside

Our rules around the use of outside jackets will remain the same. It is really important for security reasons that we are able to identify our pupils easily whilst on school grounds and more importantly quickly and efficiently identify strangers. We want to keep your young people safe and this allows us to do this. This will be even more important as the numbers of young people who are outside will be higher than normal.

Young people who choose to wear a non-branded outdoor jacket will be required to remove these on school grounds. They should be encouraged to wear a school blazer and/or St Modan's jacket.

We know that the Scottish weather can be very unpredictable and have purchased 10 large marquees to provide some additional shelter whilst young people are required to remain outside during social times. Young people will be required to socially distance when using these and the ground inside the marquees will be clearly marked.

As with all of the measures that we have introduced, these will be reviewed if we feel that they are not working or the Scottish Government advice changes.

Managing young people/staff with symptoms

What is the protocol going to be if a pupil tests positive or shows symptoms? Would the school shut for example or all the other kids and staff need to be tested??

There will be a very thorough risk assessment in place prior to our young people returning. This will include very detailed measures regarding this and will be shared with you all



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Learning

Are you addressing the BLM movement and racism?

This is already being addressed in a number of Google Classrooms across the school. Our current PSHE curriculum delivered through HWB classes in S1-3 and assemblies already include lessons on racism and sectarianism. Likewise, our Social Subjects curriculum includes a number of important topics e.g. The Slave Trade in History and Racism in Modern Studies. Staff in this department is currently reading widely and reviewing how material is being covered. The History department are also looking at how we can raise the profile of Black History month in October across the school.

I understand that reports are not possible but will there be any updates from individual subject teachers if our young people are perhaps struggling?

We will resume our normal tracking and reporting procedures in August. If you are concerned about the progress your child has been making during lockdown and would like further information then please contact their PSD Teacher through the Pupil Support email address: pupilsupportstmodans@stirling.gov.uk