

**BISHOPBRIGGS ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE**  
**PARENT COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2026**



Members Present: Sam McLean, Ester Hillen, Jane McIntosh, Lynn Armour, Allison Lunan, Kirstie Mendham, Kate Ferguson, Darren Nichol, Steph Fowler, Gayle Don

Further Attendees: Ian Donaghey, Grace Afer,

Apologies: Ken Lewani, Ashwathy Rajagopal, Cllr Colette McDiarmid, Cllr Gordon Low, Cllr Alan Moir, Melanie McKendrick, Jonathan Campbell, Julie Dey, Jo Whittet, Sophie Cooper,

**1 WELCOME**

AL extended a warm welcome to all members.

**2 MATTERS ARISING AND NEXT STEPS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes had been circulated electronically prior to the meeting and were accepted as an accurate record. To be uploaded onto school website.

Critical Incident – Stay in Place Policy update; ID advised that there is hope it may be in place in August, however logistics are difficult with such things as Canteen and PE pupils to consider. It is important to ensure that it is effective.

Capacity Expansion – Discussion took place among members in respect of the increase in capacity, with future year groups sustaining growth. SMcL sought opinion whether an invite to Greg Bremner and Gavin Haire to next PC meeting would be beneficial, in order to establish LA proposals. Members were in agreement to extend an invite and any proposed questions from members are to be forwarded to Clerk. ID expressed that MOO classrooms were a proposed temporary measure. As the building is not council owned but a PPP (Public-Private Partnership), expansion is not straight forward as lots of stakeholders are involved. BA moved into site in 2009 and now has the most extensive curriculum in Authority. ID does not want capacity to limit curriculum eg. Psychology Dept also offers criminology, both subjects are at capacity, with two teachers. ID needs rooms and accommodation to deliver – staff are wanting expansion. YP now have pathways open to them and additionality is possible, some YP can come away with 8 or 9 Nat 5s. SIP is looking to expand and grow. DYW courses looking to introduce S5 & S6 doing Leadership Course but it needs to be housed – capacity has not yet limited curriculum but current S4 year group of 260 and subsequent 240 year groups, in S6,5 & 4 will be challenge. ID further detailed that the current exam diet has only two days with no exams being sat in the school, such is the curriculum, he is very grateful for the Invigilators who show great patience and understanding with the YP.

**Action: Invite to next PC to be extended to Gregg Bremner and Gavin Haire.**

**3 HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT**

## **Staffing**

ID advised members that very thorough appointment processes were taking place presently, he is personally involved in each staff application, with each application being read for the leet, with 100+ applications for any one job. Following the leet there is a walk around school in order to ensure applicants know how important the role is. Interviews then follow with an observed lesson. ID wants to ensure the best candidates are secured prior to Easter. Permanent positions are; 3 x English, 1 x Maths, 1 x Food & Consumer Science, 1 x PT Food & Consumer Science. ID explained Temporary positions are advertised later as if too early, permanent positions elsewhere may be achieved by successful applicants. A temporary teacher for Music (to cover maternity leave), History (Education Scotland opportunity) and Art (Gaelic opportunity) being sought. NQT opportunity re advertised. ID informed members Mark Campbell DHT S2 has requested to demit at end of this session, as following a secondment opportunity he loves teaching and wants to return to it – (Design and Technology). ID informing staff members this week and advising PC involvement, should a position be advertised.

## **Kilt Walk**

ID detailed that this years Kilt Walk took place on Sunday with over 150 pupils (over 100 S3 pupils) and staff taking part. Schools chosen charity this year is Beatson and a large donation is anticipated. ID very grateful to both Mr. McCue and Mr. Johnson for their organisation and also expressed his thanks to MacGregor McDuff kilt hire, the association with kilt walk has been ongoing for ten years.

## **Achievements**

Mr. Scott Johnson – Achievement SWAY – showcase of talent. A huge amount of work resulting in some weird and wonderful achievements been identified, including a previously unknown sumo wrestler pupil, attending an event in Japan and an S3 pupil who has undertaken their first solo flight. This has been a brilliant addition in the last couple of years.

## **SIP**

ID reminded members that he commences the SIP process at this time of year by gathering voice from all stakeholders. He discussed the full process undertaken with initial self evaluation with PC 28/04/26 to finalise method for collecting parent voice, with very engaged parent forum it is very good evidence. Presently form is a tick box return but opportunity to expand if required. Parent voice will go live on 05/05/26, as will Partner voice, this is market research, where are jobs? What can they provide? This can shape and influence some decisions. Staff voice will be captured on 07/05/26 through inset activities, also allowing time to gather Department voice and Pupil voice. Draft SIP discussed at SLT and will then be shared with PTs on 20/05/26, feedback will be requested by 29/05/26 when final document will be shared with LA. Finalised document will be agreed with LA, shared with staff and uploaded onto school website for parents and partners in August 2026. ID shared the provisional Parent Voice SIP document with members and sought opinions. One member suggested a sliding scale ‘strongly agree - strongly disagree / unsure’, request top three things to question ‘What things do you think the school has done well?’, members comments included; celebrating successes, support for YP if issues develop – parents well informed – and good feedback, number of extra curricular activities on offer, extra capacity managed so well, staff have a fantastic adaptable approach throughout S1 to S6, differing with each year

group constantly remaining encouraging and supportive. Time given up by staff outside their normal hours is recognised by parents and very much appreciated (thank you!), Easter revision programme fantastic, support provided for exams is fantastic overall – everything possible is done to support the YP, study leave provides a sense of ownership, HT passionate and driven – goes through the school, Office staff very supportive – eg SQA data information query, promoting every destination as successful- ensures no YP overlooked, everyone is equal, teachers genuinely mean it.

Conversely request top three things to question ‘What things do you think have not gone well this academic year?’, members comments included; SQA transmitted data – needs better explanation, parents don’t always receive full feedback – working grade dropped dramatically and earlier conversation would have been appreciated ID detailed senior phase have four bi monthly tracking reports and school encourage conversation, if serious concern there would be feedback and it should be an open line of communication. Discussion took place among members in respect of face to face v online parents evening, blended approach general consensus beneficial, parental letters to accompany parents evening, second one needs more specific questions, first one to contain certain probing questions – ID will ensure amended for next session. Availability of subject teacher for parent evening (3 English teachers) – why additional tracking periods - physically not able to see every parent every time. ID explained no alleviation for departments with smaller teaching capacity, this is not a new problem – different working patterns / flexible working, teachers needing to take more than one class all contribute. There are protected periods for parents who missed first opportunity. ID clarified One written report and one parent night is the education guarantee, BA offer much more. New identified parents letter will be redrafted. Online maths – four assessments, query when published as study material not made available at same time, different teachers provide access at different times, should be made available to all at same point so same study period provided. BGE report Effort/ Behaviour / Homework some periods are only one period a week and it is difficult to evidence Individual / National progress so second report includes these ID clarified staff have had to spend a lot of time understanding this and he will review point. Suggestion made that a short video explaining monitoring and tracking might be beneficial to parents. Cover letter for report could be better detailed – parent fell into false sense of security, if query detail contact school. New education system – clarification of what key milestones are ahead, provide a timeline. ID expressed that he does not want to be too prescriptive, parent have key involvement at key times, Pathways has had a lot of time invested in it from S1 - 6 and beyond. If flagged up perhaps prepares parents and provides a smooth transition. Subject choice for S6 Adv Higher options, it should be clearly detailed that there is availability to study subjects at alternative schools (eg Advanced Higher Computing) when not on offer at BA. There is UCAS evening availability with timelines and typical outcomes.

All members were encouraged to complete the Parent voice survey upon circulation.

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#### **AOCB**

##### Inspection

SMcL queried whether any update on anticipated Inspection, ID has no update in respect of this . School is more than ready, last one was November 2012. It is understood that there is a backlog being worked through. School is doing well but ID very aware that staff aren’t getting due recognition for the work they undertake and nor are parents, for the engagement they have with the school. PC meetings are very much looked forward to. In respect of parental surveys a member queried whether any follow up is made to some responses, ID

clarified that it is an option to detail 'do you want to be contacted?' However anonymous surveys are more honestly responded to, member advised an anonymous email box or phone facility might be a consideration too.

#### Year Books / Hoodies

ID notified members that the S6 year books and hoodies have all been distributed to year group. He expressed the year group have done the school so proud. The usual S6 Leavers lunch, a traitors game and Bishy Market undertaken. Several members also noted the usual Marley Field 'after school event' was absolutely spotless the following morning. Very admirable.

#### DofE Award

ID informed members that 40 pupils are embarking on their Bronze Award. Two separate groups with one practice walk on 9<sup>th</sup> June, with final walk on 10/11 June and the other practice walk on 16<sup>th</sup> June, with final walk on 17/18 June. BA are only school doing it in house and it is important to retain this owing to the increasing cost. Logistics place a bigger demand on staff and it is a lot to do, staff were retrained 06/05/26, slight delay to that intended. All YP expressing an interest have opportunity to undertake award. Four sections require completion and a parents evening has taken place this year to advise what is happening.

Members discussed those pupils in later year groups who have completed all relevant sections, uploaded their skills, completed their volunteering but still await finalisation. Mark Campbell has been fantastic assisting one pupil and member querying whether opportunity to move directly to Gold award. Lack of feedback as to what is happening is disheartening for those YP involved. ID will look into this and provide note to parents.

#### First Aid at Work SQA accreditation

SMcL requested clarification on SCQF Level 6 award for First Aid at Work, it does not appear detailed upon SQA data sheet received for S5 year group. ID advised it will be credited in due course.

#### PTFA Summer Fete 30<sup>th</sup> May

Members were reminded of the first BA Summer fete to be held in order to raise funds for new minibus, please encourage anyone to attend!

Members thanked for their attendance.

#### **Next Meeting Dates:**

**Tuesday 9th June 2026, 7pm – Conference room**

#### **2026/27 Session dates TBC**

**25/08/26, 7pm Conference room**

**27/10/26, 6.30pm AGM Assembly Hall**

**12/01/27, 7pm Conference room**

**23/02/27, 7pm Conference room**

**27/04/27, 7pm Conference room**

**08/06/27, 7pm Conference room**