



BISHOPBRIGGS ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE PARENT COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 31st AUGUST 2021

Present: Gordon Mouldsdale (GM); Allison Lunan (AL); Karen Thomas (KT); Jonathan Campbell (JC); Jane McGrory (JM); Sheena Murray (SM); Lynn Armour (LA); Kirstie Mendham (KM)

In attendance: Ian Donaghey (ID)

Apologies: Louise Oudega (LO)

1 WELCOME

JC welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly to Lynn Armour and Kirstie Mendham who were attending their first Parent Council meeting. This was the first Parent Council meeting to meet in school since Covid restrictions began.

2

MATTERS ARISING AND NEXT STEPS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of 15th June 2021 were agreed. There were no matters arising.

3 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

ID introduced the School Improvement Plan Draft Targets for session 2021/22. Bishopbriggs Academy has always had a robust planning process, however, this was significantly disrupted due to Covid. In session 2020/21 a School Recovery Plan with given priorities was requested by the Authority in place of a School Improvement Plan. This year the focus has shifted back to the School Improvement Plan with the inclusion of targets for the recovery process.

Following evaluation with staff and pupils through online surveys and discussion, three priorities each with three targets have been identified:

Health and Wellbeing

- Continue with providing personalised and coherent support to pupils in challenging times
- Ensure health and safety of all staff and pupils through universal and individual support
- To sustain and develop a learning environment built on positive, nurturing and appropriately challenging relationships which lead to high quality learning outcomes

Educational continuity, equity and outcome for learners

- Review curriculum development and continue to secure improvements in levels of attainment in line with INSIGHT
- Support [pupils to bridge essential gaps in learning while continuing to challenge those who have not experienced learning loss
- To sustain and develop the use of ICT in improving the life and work of the school

Partnerships and collaborative working

- To ensure all stakeholders are aware of pupil progress throughout the learning journey
- To engage pupils and parents in learning and enable them to work collaboratively at home
- Promote collaboration with partners enhancing transitions and outcomes for learners

ID then shared the actions proposed to meet these targets and priorities.

LA commented that regular updates on pupil progress through bi-monthly reports are much appreciated by parents, particularly as face to face parents meetings are currently not possible. JC noted that there can be confusion when using Satchel (formerly known as Show My Homework) when a grade is given without context, for example a mark of 8 is given without indication that it is out of a possible 10, 20 or 100 marks. ID has contacted Satchel to discuss this on a number of occasions with little success. All teachers are reminded that the homework description should explicitly state the grading for the work, for example 'This task is worth 20 marks.' JM agreed that this had happened and that she has relied on her child providing the grading. GM asked parents to inform the school if they notice this to ensure this can be rectified.

ID would welcome feedback on the suggested targets or possible additional targets from members of the Parent Council. JC will issue a copy of the proposed School Improvement Plan Draft Targets electronically to all members. Please send any response to JC by Wednesday 15 September 2021.

4. APPOINTMENT OF NEW HEAD TEACHER

On behalf of the Parent Council, JC thanked GM for his immense contribution to Bishopbriggs Academy over the years and wished him all the best for the future.

JC outlined the selection process for a new HT. The post will be advertised nationally and a short leete of candidates will be invited to an Assessment Day which will then be followed by a final interview. As Chair and Vice-Chair of the Parent Council, JC and AL will be part of the interview panel. The Parent Council have been asked to submit possible questions to be used during the selection process. An online meeting for Parent Council members will be held week beginning 6th September 2021 to discuss possible questions. JC will provide further details on this. Bishopbriggs Academy is one of the best schools in Scotland and the appointment of a new Head Teacher is a hugely important decision for both the school and GM.

5. PARENT COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The number of Parent Council members has dwindled as members' children leave the school although JC is delighted to welcome two new members, LA and KM. It was agreed that we need to attract more members and improve communication with parents. A brief discussion took place on the use of Facebook or other social media platforms and a new email address which parents could use. It was felt that it may be better to use a generic email rather than one linked to the school as parents may then feel that this is being read by PC members rather than the school. SM noted that a new email or other social media accounts would need to be monitored regularly. KA suggested using GroupCall to keep parents informed. The AGM in

November could be an opportunity to advertise the Parent Council. The Parent Council does have a page on the school website which is updated by KT via EDC. The format of the page is limited to follow the EDC format for school websites and is bland and uninspiring. SM suggested members could add some information such as ‘What does a PC member do?’ or ‘What happens at a typical meeting?’ It may also be useful to take time to look at and update the Parent Council constitution which has not been reviewed for some time. This can be viewed on the school website at <http://www.bishopbriggs.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/parents-info/parent-council/>

6. HEAD TEACHER’S REPORT

GM spoke glowingly about our new S1. Despite going through a difficult transition from primary to secondary school where few pupils had the opportunity to visit the school or take part in the usual transition activities in person at Bishopbriggs Academy, the vast majority of S1 pupils have settled in extremely well. They are finding their way around the building with ease, their conduct is superb and standard of dress is impeccable. The only minor concern is the number of pupils not bringing a mask to school. They will be reminded of this in assemblies and class.

A number of mitigations are still in place including zones for each year group, wearing masks and separate entrances for different year groups. GM does not think this will change in the near future due to increasing numbers of Covid across Scotland.

The introduction of the new timetable, where pupils move up a year group, usually takes place in May each year. This gives pupils time to settle in new classes and begin work for the forthcoming session. This year, the timetable was later to change due to the requirements of SQA assessments and pupils only had around a week to adjust before the summer break. However, the timetable has generally worked well from the start of term.

There are 16 new staff this term. There are 13 Newly Qualified Teachers and most departments across the school have at least one NQT in their department and a further three new appointments have been made.

Miss Forsyth, Depute Head Teacher and S1 Year Head, will be going on maternity leave in October. An Acting Depute head teacher post has been advertised and it will hopefully be filled in the next week or so, allowing the appointed candidate time to liaise with Miss Forsyth for a few weeks.

For the past few years, the school has received Pupil Equity Funding (PEF). This has enabled some areas of the school to be reconfigured to support pupils and create a PEF base. In addition three PEF Principal Teachers of Health and Wellbeing, Literacy and Numeracy were appointed. Two additional Principal Teacher posts will now be added – PT Learning and Teaching and PT Digital Literacy. It is hoped these will be appointed in the near future.

This week interviews for the Captaincy Team will take place. There are two Captains and six Vice-Captains. S6 pupils who wished to apply were asked to produce a short video highlighting why they should be Captain and what they could bring to the role. Over 30 pupils applied and 17 pupils were then asked to produce a presentation for their Captaincy interview. It is hoped circumstances will greatly improve this year and enable the Captaincy Team to fully experience their role.

GM outlined SQA results for session 2020/21. These were excellent with 98% of the S4 cohort passing one or more National 5 exams and 79% passing five or more National 5 subjects. 116 pupils (53%) passed National 5 in all seven subjects and 58 of these pupils passed with straight ‘A’ passes. In October 2020, our S5/6 Pre-Prelim results were the best ever and this was confirmed with S5 results. 90% of S5 pupils achieved one or more Higher passes and 126 (58%) achieved 5 or more Highers with 47 pupils achieving all ‘A’ passes. These are our best ever results. S6 pupils all did exceptionally well with 13 pupils achieving 3 or more Advanced Highers.

GM gave his reflections on why Bishopbriggs Academy has been so successful. Key indicators of success are not only exam results but also many other factors such as positive destinations, our Goethe School Partnership, International School Status, sporting success, School of the Year awards, Vision School Status and Duke of Edinburgh Award participation. In addition, realising potential has many key components including high expectations of parents, pupils, staff and the local community; outstanding practice, purpose and vision; leadership at all levels including pupils; positive relationships; effective processes; rigour and commitment. He finished his report by stating that Bishopbriggs Academy is a superb school which has, over the years, changed Bishopbriggs for the better.

7. AOCB

The dates of this session’s meetings will need to be decided to enable school lets to be made. Proposed dates are:

2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022 *Proposed
Tuesday 27 August 2019	Tuesday 8 September 2020	Tuesday 31 August 2021
Tuesday 5 November 2019	Tuesday 10 November 2020 (original date 3 November 2020)	Tuesday 9 November 2021
Tuesday 7 January 2020	Tuesday 19 January 2021	Tuesday 11 January 2022
Tuesday 18 February 2020	Monday 15 February 2021 (original date 16 February 2020)	Tuesday 15 February 2022
Tuesday 21 April 2020 (did not take place)	Tuesday 27 April 2021 (original date 20 April 2021)	Tuesday 26 April 2022
Tuesday 9 June 2020 (original date 2 June 2020)	Tuesday 15 June 2021 (original date 1 June 2021)	Tuesday 7 June 2022

Previous years’ dates are given for guidance. The Parent Council AGM takes place in November each year. Dates will be confirmed at next week’s virtual meeting.

JC closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance and reiterated the thanks and best wishes of the Parent Council to GM for his future beyond Bishopbriggs Academy.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2021 AT 6.30pm
TO ENABLE AGM TO COMMENCE AT 7.00pm**