



**BISHOPBRIGGS ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE PARENT COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON TUESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022**

Present: Ashwathy Rajagopal (AR), Allison Lunan (AL) Cllr Alan Moir (AM), Provost Gary Pews (GP), Cllr Gordon Low (GL), Jonathan Campbell (JC), Kirstie Mendham (KM), Lynn Armour (LA), Ian Donaghey (ID), Karen Thomas (KT), Natalie Storey (NS), Louise Oudega (LO), Sam McLean (SMcL)

Apologies: Alison Keith, Sheena Murray

**1 WELCOME**

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

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 were agreed electronically prior to this meeting.

**3 HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT**

COVID 19 Guidance

Updated risk assessments to be submitted by the end of January, amendments have been made and latest version is with the Trade Unions for approval. Correct precautions should provide reassurance with constantly evolving situation. Activities planned for end of last term were put on hold. Assurances from each department that contingency plans are in place for blended and fully remote learning in order to deliver a 32 period time table again this session, as last year, if required.

Staffing

BBA has been managing a staff absence of 15-20 from staffing levels and has fortunately been able to function fully, ID advised some schools in Glasgow have needed to send entire year groups home due to staffing issues with COVID. Minimising spread by effective zoned approach is mitigating circumstances; strong sense of normality prevails around school with proper measures in place.

Following the appointment of Grant Irvine to post of Acting PT PE at Boclair Academy, two new Acting PEF (Pupil Equity Fund) Principal Teachers – Health and Well-being have been appointed. Lauren Wilson, Food and Consumer Science and John McCue, PE will have overall focus on Social, Emotional, Physical and Mental well-being support for pupils, staff and parents. School will also be appointing a Youth Development Worker to work together with PEF Principal Teachers and Natalie Hendrie, PT DYW (Developing the Young Workforce) to enhance the curriculum opportunities for pupils lacking experience / skillsets or presenting vulnerability.

Mr. Rushworth, new Acting DHT, has been tasked to ensure that the Pupil Equity Funding, provided to assist in closing the attainment gap, is correctly managed. He will not have year group responsibility but will be responsible for overseeing HWB from S1 – S6. Pupils who were in S1 when PEF was introduced are now in S4. Mr. Rushworth will utilise his team to support those pupils identified accordingly.

Mr. Rushworth's vacant position - PT Guidance (Acting) - has had 9 applicants, who will be invited for walk around and interviews next week. Mr. Rushworth will cover the role meantime alongside members of staff seeking experience with pastoral support.

John McQuade (PT PE) is to undergo an operation and an Acting PT PE, Jack Halley from Bocclair Academy has been appointed meantime to cover this absence.

Staff allocations are currently being considered for the forthcoming session and there has been notification of two staff going on maternity leave.

### Reporting Pupil Progress / Online Parents' Evenings

Dates are in place for reports and Parents' Evenings. School were waiting for guidance from Authority before Christmas on implementation of online parents' evenings. Some platform training was required in respect of software being utilised to deliver this. Previously one written report and one Parents' Evening provided. BBA enhanced this to 3 written reports, (two tracking and one fully written) for S1 – S3. Seniors getting 5 reports, three tracking interim reports, one fully written report and a target setting report from Guidance following meaningful assessment in Prelims – this is in order to make up for the lack of Parents' Evening. Following an online survey with S5/S6 parents, increased report writing was choice as opposed to online Parents' Evening.

First online Parents' Evening for S4 went ahead yesterday. Initial feedback being very positive, ID very pleased one has been managed albeit teething problems experienced but confident that these can be tweaked going forwards. JC commented that everyone will get better with experience, very positive short period with 5 minute window, noted no time for niceties but worked well in general. ID advised that historically appointments could run on with some parents missing their time slot. The online platform has a box for highlighting certain issues, some parents were not aware of this. It is more efficient with a five minute deadline. School wanted to ensure that being online was no barrier and 80% of pupils were represented last night. A robust approach was made via email, with parents who did not respond telephoned directly; process being learnt from. Christmas break interrupted the run up and this will not be problem with future dates.

ID clarified query that all subjects are covered during online meeting and parents can choose relevant subjects or computer can generate choice of all or some subjects. Suggested option choice selection for S2/3.

Forthcoming online Parents Evenings:

S2 - 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022

S1 – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022

S3 – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022

All evenings are factored into the curricular calendar and all reports promised will be delivered. S5 & S6 will have an extensive written progress report delivered on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022. There is a lot of scope to review and develop reporting to parents going forwards. Parents have enjoyed, and some preferred, more frequent reports. This can be further discussed for next session.

LO commented that S5/6 critical time and felt both a full report and Parents' Evening would have been beneficial as there seemed to be some inconsistency with report, targets and gradings. Expressed disappointment that Parents' Evening not happening for these year groups.

ID advised that trying to fit in five Parents' Evenings not possible with the present workload for staff and available time frame. Staff doing incredible job to fit in 4 out of 5 evenings. ID advised that any parent seeking clarification is always able to phone the school and emphasised the importance of doing so. JC observed that the actual reports for S5/6 are very detailed. ID noted it is a resource issue for reports promised and needing delivered. With three tracking reports, a full written one (in lieu of a Parents' Evening following the prelims detailing strengths, issues, areas for development and what the pupil needs to do to reach it) and a target setting report/prelims.

Satchel is being used far more effectively and parents are getting far more feedback than previously.

### Prelims and Support Programme

S4 prelims completed, S5/6 underway. Supported Study for S4 – S6 pupils has taken place prior to prelims and will do so again before SQA exams.

ID advised that this was first time in two years that a full run through of S5/6 prelims has occurred with the S4 prelims held in December. The Games Hall is being utilised with an Invigilation team overseeing in order that a full experience of exam diet will hopefully assist pupils. Some pupils in S5/6 have had no prior exam experience due to COVID and pupils will be in much better position for SQA exams. The prelims will also provide a good body of evidence alongside the portfolio of evidence for each child should SQA not progress exams.

A number of workshops and external agencies to be utilised again with a mindset approach to enhance exam experience for pupils. There will be another block of supported study for S4, S5 & S6 beginning in March. An Easter revision programme is under discussion with staff and hopeful this will go ahead. LO requested massive thanks be passed on to Mr Mouldsdales for 2 hr sessions of supported study he provided every Saturday (over 50 pupils) and yesterday (60 pupils).

### Option Choice Process & Parent Information Evenings

Commenced on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January with S3-4, S4-5, S5-6 and S2-3. This is a lengthy process which is continually reviewed and changes and amendments are able to be made. It is a robust process to ensure that pupils make an informed choice. Parents' Information Evenings will also be provided for each year group.

P7 open evening on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Option Choice Process for S2 parent and pupil evening will be held 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022. Lots of information and support will be provided. AR sought clarification on structure of evening, ID detailed that the usual attendance within Assembly Hall providing rationale for curriculum choices alongside various stalls with PT and teachers of subjects to speak with directly, is not able to be conducted via Teams; however a presentation and discussion via Teams will take place with direction given to available resources. Individual discussion with pupils will also take place with their guidance teacher. All young people should have had a career interview and this is now a more refined process. Parents also more informed with input from Skills Development Scotland. ID advised that Education Scotland set the curriculum and BGE years have to have a breadth of learning with a broader subject choice – this can be honed in later years. Power point presentation will detail arrangement of curricular areas.

### Primary/Secondary Transition

Plans in place with associated Primary Schools. Mrs Mackay, S1 Year Head has met with the headteachers from the primary schools – will now meet monthly and hopeful that a normal transition programme can be held with team building days, teacher visits/lessons and induction days. Some of

these may need to be remote – COVID dependant. Jubilee weekend has impacted on proposed induction day plans.

#### **4 SCHOOL BUS**

JC notified that AM and GP had progressed further enquiry with this, following last meeting and reported back. Unfortunately, it seems that it is not considered economically viable to provide a service presently and a note would be placed on the PC section of website to advise parent raising issue. AM detailed that whole commercial bus market is facing interesting challenges ahead with similar issues being faced elsewhere and the uptake of free travel for the under 22s is awaited, particularly if there is no bus to be utilised. All bus routes are heavily subsidised by Government until end of April and if there is enthusiasm for service by young people, this matter will need to be addressed.

#### **5 GIRLS PE PROVISION**

KM enquired what PE provision is for S3 girls. A limited choice of walking, scooting or playing ‘Olly, Olly Octopus’ had been her daughter’s options. ID advised some departments suffered during COVID restrictions – almost all PE had to be outside and choice had been given to young people. Sometimes access to changing rooms not possible. Still disruption going on and PE dept looking at other options, eg silent disco, orienteering. Catering for up to 7 or 8 classes at a time causes issues and limitations presently. KM expressed that this did not appear to have been the case last year. ID detailed that there certainly should be a rotation of fitness testing, use of astro grass pitch, bikes/scooter use, orienteering, trampolining, badminton, gymnastics etc.

**Action** ID will seek clarification from department and check what is on offer.

#### **6 AOCB**

AL queried the blanket COVID public health notification letter sent to all parents without specification of class or year group. As parents may have more than one child in the school, this made it impossible to work out which child may be affected. All members had recently received such a notification from school. ID advised that decision made to circulate to entire year groups owing to pupil movement during school day. He will ensure there is more clarity of who is being targeted in future notifications.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
AT 7.00PM**