



BISHOPBRIGGS ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE PARENT COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 26th April 2022

Present: Karen Thomas (KT), Alison Lunan (AL), Jonathan Campbell (JC), Natalie Storey (NS), Lynn Armour (LA), Kirstie Mendham (KM), Ashwathy Rajagopal (AR), Ian Donaghey (ID), Jane McGrory (JM), Cllr Gordon Low (GL), Sam McLean (SMcL)

Apologies: Louise Oudega, Sheena Murray, Cllr Alan Moir

1 WELCOME

Chair welcomed everyone to meeting. Minutes from last meeting had been electronically circulated to all members for amendment /approval and are now on school website.

2 MATTERS ARISING AND NEXT STEPS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

ID advised that in respect of Item 6, Resources – Access to English/ Maths. ID spoke to both Principal Teachers and can reassure parents that there is a wealth of resources available on Teams and Satchel. Both platforms were utilised for different reasons during COVID and there is a need to ensure that these are constantly available for those home learning. Maths currently have separate Teams’ channels for different year groups, however, it has been recognised that the facility of being able to revisit areas is beneficial, therefore Maths are creating one single Team for all year groups to access. This will consist of Course notes/ videos explaining topics and workbooks / past paper questions etc. These used to feature on Glow – SharePoint but it was felt Teams was a better option. Only downside to Teams is that parents need to access Teams through their child’s Glow account. Satchel provides parental communication availability and reminders are useful tool. These resources are accessible 24 hrs a day. Further discussion took place in respect of the ‘Marks out of’ box, this issue is still unresolved but discussion is ongoing with Satchel. Teachers are aware and should be detailing the mark separately.

ID - Item 7 re Parental Support. AR has spoken with Miss Quigley on 25/04. A detailed minute has been provided to ID. Very positive improvement and business planning going forward. A co-ordinator at JP Morgan is being identified. AR detailed that there are not very many women in STEAM jobs, provision of videos highlighting women in STEAM positions would be encouraging and AR will try to facilitate this. ID informed the PC that a new award for ‘Female Student of the Year’ in this field may be introduced. Pre COVID approximately fifty business partners attended an annual business breakfast to enhance the curriculum; this will be reintroduced next session hopefully and ID is also confident that the EDC Hackathon inter-school competition will return.

GL provided background detail to members in respect of the Technical report forwarded to PC members via email. A number of local residents have contacted the Council in respect of parking issues around school drop off and pick up in Palmer Court. There is not much more Council are able to undertake with restrictions as it is an adopted road. There is not a recognised formal agreement with St. Dominic’s and the Council are not promoting the use of the church car park owing to this. Further joint communication and awareness is being encouraged with both BA and St. Helen’s Primary for use of bikes/ walking to school; this is ongoing. Discussion took place

around the proposed placement of a pedestrian crossing, possibly at the railway bridge outside Wester Cleddens Primary School. Traffic light placement at Angus Avenue has been proposed and the Council has agreed to this. Other traffic issues in Bishopbriggs were discussed with mention made of the pre COVID trial of the restricted parking zone in Park Road for St. Matthews and Wester Cleddens primary schools around school drop off and pick up time. Trials are taking place in other Council areas presently.

3 HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

Staffing

Very busy period with a number of positions advertised. A new Business Studies/Computing teacher has been appointed.

Posts advertised for Physics, Business, Art, Maths and Enhanced Learning Resource teachers. Lots of applicants for the positions and BA in good position and eagerly sought after. Very time consuming process as any appointment requires applicant to undertake an observed lesson in classroom before follow up with interview. ID working way through this.

SQA

Seniors S4, 5 & 6 now on study leave. Very successful Easter study programme for National 5 and Highers. Part of this also involved highlighting effective time management. First week focused and targeted Monday to Friday. Hugely successful with a massive turnout with no sessions cancelled prior to Easter. With twenty members of staff absent with COVID during this period ID is very grateful to available staff for facilitating this.

S4 participated in exam success workshops. Exam hall replicated exam conditions with seat numbers, important preparation. Resource packs were provided to students – examples provided to PC members. Very successful.

Similar workshop for S3 year group who will undertake transition exams in June. Using Invigilation team this year in same hall. Aware young people will need support. Live 'n' Learn have held workshops today and again tomorrow. There will be further workshops for those requiring additional support. Hopeful that the resource packs provided will be beneficial. Transition exams have been missed over the last three years. Exam results will be shared with parents via Satchel. School will be identifying those who require additional support or intervention; this assists with Target setting. SQA estimates have been sent to SQA on time. School has been very engaged with tracking / interim reports every two months which has made estimate process easier. Parents aware of progress of child with all year long progress known, good parental engagement.

School Awards

Whilst we were unable to host our annual awards ceremony, it was felt that it was important to recognise the achievements of our young people. Almost 500 awards presented for Attainment, Progress and Contribution to Life of School / House / Community at special year group assemblies

Delighted Honours Board has been updated and Dux/Proxime Accessit Trophies awarded and glad that awards ceremony will be returning next session with extended awards.

Primary / Secondary Transition

Eleanor MacKay (S1 Year Head) is in regular contact with Primary Head Teachers. Each of our Primary 7 associated school pupils have been to school for a tour of the school and to meet current S1. Whole new year group attended yesterday and participated in Shinty, Dance, Scooters, Rugby, Basketball. All primary pupils are getting chance to mingle. Huge success. Further induction days on 25/26 May to follow full timetable. Very grateful that this has been allowed to happen. ID thanked E. Mackay and primary schools for their support.

S6 Leavers/Prom/Activities Week/Charitable Event

S6 have missed out on many major events over the last two years. This year their School prom will take place and the Leavers Lunch at Woodhill Evangelical Church was held on Friday last week. S6 pupils deserve a huge amount of credit, behaving impeccably on Friday. The Prom will be held at the Old Fruit Market 10/06. S^ pupils have also received their Hoodies, Year Book and Survival Guide produced by Mr Gilmour, RMPS which includes Life Hacks, Inspirational Quotes and How to Handle the World advice given by many staff across the school. ID is relieved this has been able to be managed.

Activities week – a full quota of activities will be provided during last week of term including Alton Towers and Blackpool Pleasure Beach.

Summer Ball is currently being organised - this promotes positive relationships and pupils who have accumulated many merits (and few demerits) will be invited.

Kilt Walk takes place on 24/4, limited to S3 year group with 90 walking the 14 mile route from Clydebank to Balloch. Hopeful significant money will be raised for Young Lives v Cancer; school tries to achieve £10,000 per annum and ID confident that this will be reached and surpassed. One pupil alone has raised £420, an admirable achievement.

Parents' Evenings

All parents' evenings have been completed and these have been detailed as fabulous. Virtual parents' evenings have been excellent, parents enjoyed meeting in comfort of own home. Over 95% engagement with S1 parents, this has never been achieved before. S2 was very frustrating though (previously detailed failure of platform prevented most parents being able to participate). Extra up-skilling of staff, in order to facilitate virtual evenings, was very time consuming. Extra reporting had been undertaken for pupils and there is only the one time slot for each parents' evening. Curricular calendar had already been tweaked to accommodate the evenings and it is not possible to reschedule again. Staff are keen to continue with them and ID not wanting to over promise or under deliver. These arrangements will need to be discussed and approved with Professional Associations, parents, staff and pupils.

Virtual parents' evening have had higher level of parental engagement. 85 – 91% parents signed in. Historically there has been one traditional report and one parents' evening per year. Currently utilising Satchel for more reporting. Virtual parents' evenings have no difference – there are the

same number of appointments available for each teacher. Discussion took place regarding the differences between virtual and physical meetings. Staff have embraced virtual parents' evenings.

There is an option to amend reporting. Increased reporting would need whole school consultation for 'perfect model'. KM noted S3 parents' evening much slicker than S1 virtual parents' evening and queried how much you get from a written report.

S1 reports will be issued on 11/05. S1 have been very happy and settled considering there was less transition taking place during their P7 year.

Consultation on improvement planning will take place in June. ID very keen that PC are involved (they need to be) with anything good or less successful during session. Staff are very grateful they get to work with school – makes for a conducive learning environment accompanied with good parental engagement. Every pupil S1 – S6 now enjoying normal routine following lifting of COVID restrictions.

ID advised all members that Teams has provision to allow different year groups access to resources of other year groups. This will be streamlined allowing access to a large number of resources. Current focus on achieving this.

4 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

School is now at Improvement Planning Stage for the next session. Staff will be consulting during forthcoming In-Service Day and next week. ID very keen to take suggestions and feedback from both the Parent Council and general parent body.

Comments on the current session's Improvement Plan and anything needing to be addressed for the next session are requested to enable us to improve the experience of all stakeholders. SMcL and JC will work with ID to formulate and disseminate Microsoft Forms survey for parent circulation.

5 AOCB

SMcL has set up a Parent Council email which will enable parents to contact the Parent Council directly without going through the school office. The email address will be issued to all parents for the start of the new session in August and will also be available on the school website.

NS expressed her thanks to PC for years of involvement, at what could be her last meeting should she be unable to make the next in June. Thanks were extended for her contribution.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 7th June 2022
at 7.00PM**