



BISHOPBRIGGS ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE PARENT COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 30th AUGUST 2022

Present: Allison Lunan (AL), Jonathan Campbell (JC), Lynn Armour (LA), Kirstie Mendham (KM), Ashwathy Rajagopal (AR), Ian Donaghey (ID), Cllr Gordon Low (GL), Cllr Lynda Williamson (LW), Sam McLean (SM), Lyndsey Jackson (LJ)

Apologies: Sheena Murray, Cllr Allan Moir, Cllr Collette McDiarmid

1 WELCOME

JC Welcomed everyone to the meeting, minutes from last meeting have been distributed to all members electronically, approved and circulated onto the school website.

2 MATTERS ARISING AND NEXT STEPS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

No matters arising / steps from previous meeting

3 HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

Start of Term

Enjoyable start of term in direct comparison to Covid - very challenging over the last few years with variable changing circumstances. New S1 year group have been amazing and the school's largest intake with 260 pupils. Older year groups assisting and thanked for contribution for S1 inclusion. School is in conversation with Local Authority in respect of additional accommodation.

Extra-Curricular Clubs are up and running across school. S1 Freshers Fayre – all clubs with staff representatives and S6 links present to promote each club and encourage pupils to sign up. Now published on Satchel for S1. Thank you expressed to parents embracing the uniform ethos and an improvement of timekeeping for the small number of children identified as having a potential issue. Prefect body is in place, and they will be empowered by being asked to focus on an aspect of school life that is of interest to them, to improve life of school. Captaincy Team candidates have been whittled down, very creative applications with lots of thought and effort, the standard is outstanding. Sixteen interviews are being held on Friday. Once in place the captaincy team will select the charity for the coming year. A shortlist of charities pertinent to the local context of the school and community will be made and then voted for within the school. This is an important aspect of the school.

Bishy Bulletin, the school newspaper (led by Alan Wilson – English Dept) won Newspaper of the Year award with one of the pupils also winning best journalist. Sky Kids 'Your Call' looking to film but need to go via EDC for this. The link has been shared with parents.

Ex pupil Katie Shanahan- Commonwealth Games swimming medallist – is attending school on Monday and will be presented with Parliamentary Motion. A fantastic role model, she will also be invited to the first staff meeting on 16/09/22 to share her journey. With an incredible attainment record ID would quite like staff to hear how they have helped Katie achieve her results accompanied with her daily four-hour swimming training. Questions will be forwarded and Katie will also speak with year groups in Assemblies. A valuable source of inspiration and help for young people.

Parent Info Evenings

Series of evenings lined up, have been held remotely over the last few years but three scheduled in September. UCAS Information Evening is the first one taking place on 05/09/22. Parents will hear about the process pupils undertake in school to support their application. S6 pupils are timetabled for a period of PSE with their Guidance teacher each week, who helps with the research of courses, personal statements and references. Statistics have shown school proven very successful for pupils getting first choice.

Senior Phase (S4-6) Information Evening will take place on 12/09/22 and the Broad General Education (S1-3) Information Evening on 19/09/22.

Both commencing with an information briefing within the Assembly Hall – Microsoft form will be sent to parents, providing a choice of a maximum of two workshops, each with a different theme e.g., Digital Literacy, Wellbeing/Sleep, Supporting Numeracy, Supporting Literacy, Social Media/ Parental Controls. Parents will be able to sign up for them, resources will be made available for all the workshops. The workshops will be the same this year for both senior and BGE as parents have not had the opportunity to attend any during Covid pandemic. Some workshops are more pertinent to Senior phase though and a full rundown is available to parents. This approach ensures parents are aware of what is available and where to direct child for support – providing a coherent support programme.

Events

Off The Beatson Track 10K. Sixty pupils and staff present last weekend at the West End.

S1 Sportathon taking place on 16/09/22, an all-night, 12-hour event. Mr McCue (PE Dept) and 5th/6th Year Sports Captains hosting several activities throughout the night, provides a good opportunity to mix outside of classes and encourages involvement in the life of the school. September weekend follows providing opportunity to recover.

Pupil Equity Fund

School is continuing delivery of food parcels to families struggling with rising costs. Twenty rucksacks have been purchased that resemble a typical school bag (external delivery not sustainable) filled with long lasting goods. We arrange for young people to collect these bags on their way home.

Brand new and preloved uniform bank. Identity of school uniform is important, and school is in a good position to support this.

‘Take what you Need Trolleys’

These offer things like sanitary products, tights, stationary, socks, cereal bars, deodorant. Pupils can help themselves and they are positioned in different locations around the school.

Over summer digital assistance was provided for families with applications for free school meals and clothing grants.

BA is now running its own Barista Coffee bar, caffeine limited to over 16s but fresh blended juice options for younger pupils. Targeted pupils will be Barista trained, gaining SQA accreditation. We also have 12 pupils attending Kelvin College to continue training. 8 staff are also being trained so

more pupils can be trained. Young People will run the coffee shop benefiting literacy and numeracy skills, inspiring YP to see they have a skill leading to part time work or a job. Enterprising Skills. YP put through Princes Trust award.

Twenty-Five S2s attending Broomlea Education Centre as part of a two night residential trip, Friday morning to Sunday afternoon, this was fully funded for some.

Staffing

Two new teaching posts with interviews being conducted on Friday;

Principal Teacher - Attainment/Achievement

Principal Teacher – Digital Literacy

Both posts will be supporting young people and providing more resources ensuring accreditation.

4 ACTIVE SCHOOLS

Lyndsey Jackson representative for EDC raising awareness of Active Schools (AS) in Cluster area and seeking parental engagement.

National Programme aims / outcomes and priorities have changed. AS are ensuring Young People are encouraged e.g., extracurricular clubs, support network getting kids involved in sport.

Sports Scotland / Scottish Government jointly managed with Local Authority Leisure and Culture Trust; remit has not changed.

Requirement to identify local need and want, link with volunteers – pupil and staff leadership opportunities. Lots of interest across board and other opportunities with Captains / Vice Captains.

AS are looking to recruit two Ambassadors for sport nationally. So many opportunities for Young People – Active Sports Captains (House Captains / Young ambassadors) work with school staff to get them trained etc. Netball Today, provision of Transition events for P7s, Festivals / Dance Festivals to get back up and running, excellent sports club links. AS can ensure appropriate support and events assistance which is the main crux of their work.

Opinions are requested on Inclusion/ Diversity and Equality “are we getting everyone?” feedback is being actively sought on AS being more inclusive.

Locally there are nine full time equivalent AS staff through the local cluster area working with primary schools.

If anyone has any questions or wishes to make any enquiry /volunteer, please do not hesitate to contact Lyndsey at any time throughout the year. Lyndsey.Jackson@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

5 AOB

Vaping Hazards for Children

AR raised issue of educating children in respect of the hazards of vaping. ID advised that it had been spoken about, young people are aware of the health implications in respect of smoking and perhaps do not have the same awareness regarding vaping. School is raising awareness through assemblies and PSE covers substance misuse. The school is increasing presence of staff in toilets to ensure pupils are not loitering in toilets or vaping in toilets. Educating pupils on health risks associated with vaping and raising awareness among young people that large groups of young people can be intimidating to members of the public, is very much on schools' radar.

Duke of Edinburgh Programme

AR expressed concern that places on the programme were limited. ID advised that there is no limit on the programme as there once had been. Sixty-three applications were received last year, all were accepted. D of E develops life skills, 98 students went through the bronze award last year. Core team targeted pupils who would really benefit from it. There is an extremely strict pupil / teacher ratio and time frames. Two staff assessors are now qualified.

Bronze expedition at Mugdock Park to reduce financial cost and pupils were not charged for final expedition. There were also seventeen pupils undertaking the Silver Award last year. Thirty-six days over weekends were spent undertaking D of E expeditions last year, this is a huge commitment from staff to ensure that no pupil missed out through Covid.

Computing Contact for New Events

AR discussed Generation Tech and JP Morgan co-ordinator. It is understood that St. Ninians have requested a representative from JP Morgan for the S2 year group. ID advised that Miss Phee and Miss Quigley - joint Principal Teachers - have a trip to JP Morgan organised on Saturday with mentor provision for a challenge, exciting opportunity. ID advised email address of contact.

QA coursework must be submitted electronically – more skills possessed with need to be more eye catching for examiners, ensuring the demands of SQA coursework are met.

Parking Management

ID finding situation frustrating, it is accepted that certain young people have transport needs, but for others is there any alternative? With so many schools in the immediate area generating so much traffic, is there any project that the Parent Council can promote for a more active approach to school drop off. The afternoon collection is more condensed with a natural flow observed during the morning drop off, cars are often blocking the school gates. Local Authority have a plan for town centres, any ideas would be appreciated.

Discussion took place with members, Eco Group first focus Litter “better briggs” then think “Active Travel”, it is noted some parents arrive 45 minutes before school bell to collect children, parking in turning circle to do so. No parking Zones is most extreme option, ‘Park and Stride’ also an option, police have been consulted. Is there an option of putting in a turning circle in the green area opposite the school?

GL discussed the Pilot of School Streets which might work; however, the problem is with people's mindset to drive everywhere. Young people are more motivated to tackle climate change – could this be used to motivate parents? Bus services are an issue with certain pockets of the catchment having no bus service – funding is not available and bus companies have no drivers.

Local infrastructure discussed in respect of cycling to school along such a busy road, particularly with incidents occurring in immediate school vicinity. One of cycle shelters panels had been broken but has been replaced. ID advised a cycle container of 30 bicycles is in place for a bicycle maintenance course.

Car sharing considerations are to be voiced at assemblies. Primary school children trying to safely navigate vehicles dropping off secondary school children is also a concern.

Financial Education of Pupils

JC detailed during a work-related conversation with an 18/19-year-old, it became quickly apparent that the individual had no relevant knowledge in respect of financial information. ID detailed the school focus of Finance education which is on PSE curriculum. Numeracy tutorials have recently been introduced, also a Nat 5 Application of Maths. Some pupils struggle to see the relevance of Maths. Application of Maths includes many everyday life skills and may appear more engaging and relevant to pupils. This is available in S4, 5 and 6. School is trying to cover financial education with courses in senior phase, traditionally S5 and S6 induction day, one off hit but they are getting it better embedded. A more progressive cohesive programme is being undertaken with PSE from S1 upwards. Working Group is adding to resources provided and available. Cooking in Senior Phase proving popular. Members also discussed Go Henry as an incentive for children's management of money.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND AGM – Tuesday 1st November 2022
AT 6.30PM
CONFERENCE ROOM OR LIBRARY DEPENDING ON NUMBERS ATTENDING**