



**BISHOPBRIGGS ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE PARENT COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Present: Ian Donaghey (ID); Allison Lunan (AL); Lynn Armour (LA); Kirstie Mendham (KM); Cllr Lynda Williamson; Deb Hart (DH); Sheena Murray (SM); Sam McLean (SMcL); Ashwathy Rajagopal (AR)

Apologies: Jonathan Campbell; Cllr Alan Moir; Cllr Gordon Low; Cllr Collette McDiarmid

**1 WELCOME**

AL welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

The circulated Minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 were agreed. Matters deferred from previous meeting itemised within Agenda.

**3 HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT**

PSE Review

ID expressed thanks to members for their completion of the PSE (Personal and Social Education) review before it being opened up to the wider parent body. A comprehensive understanding was required and this was evident in the responses. Working group met in December and points raised were considered. PSE is being revamped so Young People (YP) are being up skilled both personally and socially.

Awards Ceremony

ID informed members that working groups, comprising both staff and pupils, have been involved in developing criteria, with relevant research being carried out. Historically BGE – Excellence Awards / Progress and Effort, one award was not appreciated as much as the other. ID detailed the considerations for being successful learners in respect of reporting criteria with National Progress (where the pupil is supposed to be), Individual Progress (teacher believes is fulfilling their potential) coupled with the hard work and effort being put in by the YP. Other successful learner criteria being looked at for each subject are contribution to the department, working well within groups, accepting some responsibilities, adding some value to the department, working to full potential and trying best. School believe they can remove any stigma from the BGE awards and want to encourage that approach. In respect of the Senior phase awards, levels of attainment gained by monitoring and tracking data with Successful Learners at Nat 4, 5, Higher and Advanced Higher for each subject.

LA queried criteria for school dance inclusion and how some might miss social engagement opportunity with friends. ID clarified that some criteria is not applied to all the social opportunities with Halloween disco, Christmas Dance and Rewards trips not coming under

the remit concerning demerits. The effort to incentivise YP, with criteria shared throughout the year to ensure they are aware in order to not deny any opportunity, is also open to discretion for each individual that can be taken into account. In some extra curricular clubs behaviour has led to some YP being refused attendance. School is trying to build resilience and time keeping, ensuring pupils are buying into the School Vision and Aims but also tries hard to ensure fairness is applied, approaches have been recognised as very inclusive. Pupils have to realise there are consequences when criteria is known, also to parents and in some cases school has to be fair. Twitter feed is noted to have provided a platform for parental view.

Further discussion took place among members regarding Awards night, ID detailed many are in favour of a collective event with a number of Special Awards, Team, Headteacher. Lots of YP really enjoy this with some BGE beating S4/5 pupils. Captains also make speeches too and with the whole school present it is a very special event, a benefit of splitting it is that more people can be awarded. Different venues to facilitate the whole school are not available for the size required locally. Consideration for shy/self conscious individuals who are polite, well mannered and attend regularly also requested. Concern expressed with YP not being recognised by some teachers, ID clarified historically top 20 pupils would be picked from excellence but will now be individually (subject) recognised. SM advised that as a parent with experience of four different children, each of their teachers recognises the differences and also confirmed teachers argue passionately about why their pupil should be awarded, making sure a sound and informed decision is made. ID also noted that some things YP are involved with come as a surprise.

#### Attainment visit

ID advised that each year prior to pandemic Local Authority would visit school and look at the headline figures, S4 – Nat 5 – 5 or more exams, S5 – 1, 3 or 5 Highers, S6 – 1 Advanced Higher. Over the last five years there has been a push from the Government in order to close the attainment gap and with utilising Insight (education assessment tool) alongside the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) each pupil is assessed 1-10, a flat line would show there is no ‘postcode lottery’ however, right across Scotland, that is not the case. BA has a number of pupils in SIMD 1, 2 & 3 within the ED catchment area which has resulted in £83,000 of annual funding each year, the school is held accountable for this and needs to show the impact of this investment, the focus having changed considerably.

ID led members through the presentation given to Local Authority on 05/12/22 and this has been circulated to all members. School wished to highlight the issues faced due to pandemic with the percentage of pupils reaching Level 3 & 4 numeracy/literacy down and very good positive destinations at end of school with a positive supportive environment and delivery of remote learning through Covid. Headline figures recognise BA as being a good school.

Feedback from LA outstanding, School Management Team were bought in and were recognised for not only establishing school routine again but also making sure learning and teaching returned to a standard consistent approach and providing an extra curricular program for pupils. ID also wished to address universal approaches with key themes. ICT had been needed, there is now plenty with additional laptop trolleys – now two per floor Staffing – DHT for Pupil Equity Fund – Jody Rushworth overseeing sustainability through a strategic approach (CORE team), additional PT HWB, PT Digital Literacy, PT Attainment and Achievement – upskill to access resources and reinforce learning, ASN teacher for pupils with significant support needs as average tariff points are lower, personalise programme for these pupils.

Monitoring and tracking to identify anyone not filling potential. Easter revision with study groups.

ID detailed the Universal approaches for culture, closing attainment gap by raising bar for every pupil with monitoring and tracking, consistent high level messages, success stories no matter how big or small, Insight training – upskill PTs to filter ASN Male and Female pupils, Attainment templates and meetings, PT collaboration meetings, universal and targeted support programme. Additional resources are externally available. – really useful – stops those who are able being frustrated. Concern if everyone attends support programme it dilutes the impact on those that really need it.

Attainment meeting – greater awareness of attainment factors, pupil tracking to identify SIMD pupils, ASN – school tracker sharing attainment tracker for awareness.

Sophisticated levels of support, effective use of ICT for differentiation, Interactive and engaging resources (immersive reader) and resources that scaffold personal study (interactive reader)

Personalisation and choice incorporated into curriculum, flexibility in delivery to capture accreditation with high risk pupils, additionally incorporated, incorporation of units in programme of work (added subjects – criminology, plans for Higher Care), utilise topic autonomy to increase accessibility of courses

Monitoring and Tracking - Whole school tracker with Department spreadsheets. BGE and Senior Phase attainment trackers now included. Improved reporting of pupil progress, enhance primary/secondary transition data with earlier intervention of high risk pupils, identified in BGE 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> year.

Curriculum and option choice structure reviewed, increase provision of SCQF level 5 in S5/6 – increase S6 numbers. Bespoke timetables determined by pupil needs.

Learning and teaching – Every department involved in lesson study and developing a brand of learning and teaching with a holistic approach. Professional reading group, department lesson study. Pupil voice embedded to evaluate practice.

Areas for development – Target S4 pupils not attending / currently achieving very few if any tariff points, identify S5 pupils who try to leave. Target S3 pupils lacking literacy/numeracy. Female pupils in S4 ASN, Male pupils in S4 receiving Free School Meals, continue to support YP attainment.

Vocational programme – 38 Open Doors courses, Senior Phase vocational courses, Foundation apprenticeships, look at accessible colleges on locality, funding now removed.

Addressing areas for development – attainment factors, SIMD – free school meals, poverty related attainment – what are barriers? Pupil tracker – whole department aware.

Numeracy – 03/22 64 S4 pupils identified not having achieved Level 4 numeracy, 84% passed May/June 2022. Number of strategies in place to ensure don't leave school without numeracy. CORE tutorial programme in place.

BA making sure supporting families with cost of school day, take what you need trolleys, uniform bank, assisted families with child payment benefit, feeding into stronger links/ improved attainment, setting up healthy food at home.

Digital literacy – targeting every pupil and those that need it.

School aspirational for every young person, ID very confident over next couple of years that attainment gap will be pushed up.

Amount of money £83,000 lowest ever had, this funding in place for another two academic sessions, need to hit things right, now, which is why emphasis is on improving PSE. Thomas Muir has over £100,000 with a greater percentage of SIDM pupils, other three catchment schools lower. Money is spent wisely, blend of ICT/ hardware but also personnel, utilised effectively. Other ideas involving primary schools, ID would love associated schools to be utilising a similar platform for parental communication such as Satchel.

Lot going on in school, staff working very hard, set tone at start of term.

KM queried the ability to drop science at end of S3, being shocked that it is not being taught at all. ID clarified that column choices are set, after three years of study subject can be dropped, gave the example that problem solving in maths, some pupils know how to apply formula, but not why. Science Dept felt pupils were being made to do it and that was detrimental to not only that pupil but also others. There is a certain requirement to provide language. STEAM – profile of science couldn't be any higher, there is a lot promoting sciences. Discussion ensued regarding exam process in comparison to England and Wales. Statistics are available to pupils in order to provide them with a fully informed decision in respect of their ability and potential performance at Higher standard (eg Drama A, Music A, Science C at Nat 5, would perhaps struggle at higher level with science). Progression rate is provided and Guidance teacher has the figures to support, probability all have been informed throughout and recommendations made, abundance of information available. ID goes through every single option choice and discusses results with them. SM detailed own experience and also emphasised life choices need to be made by YP. Workshops very good for option choices and Guidance teachers informed to also advise parents. If YP wants to undertake an exam option, they will be able to do so and be fully supported in doing so. Apprenticeships – some YP may suit college far more. KM noted the review of qualifications with extension of time until 13/01/23 regarding SQA position. ID unaware of what will transpire presently.

#### **4 PARKING / TRAFFIC ISSUES**

Discussion took place regarding walking shoes and ability to change them at school. All pupils have access to lockers if needed. Position re land accessibility for enhanced turning/drop off circle opposite BA discussed, this is believed to belong to residents. No resolution for parking issues presently.

#### **5 HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

ID advised ECO team - litter picking team, LA advised can assist and also notified all about Litter Lotto. SM detailed a project being undertaken with younger pupils regarding Brown trout being positioned somewhere around the school. ID has a Carbon Footprint bottle, details how it ends up on your dinner plate, this is also being covered in PSE.

#### **6 AOCB**

**Items deferred from last meeting**

Safety of Scooters used at school; AR expressed concern about safety of scooters used as her child was injured following a fall from a broken scooter last November. ID notified that scooters were actually repaired this morning, the bikes and scooters have a regular maintenance programme, school are also looking to introduce bike maintenance as a course for pupils. Scooters and bikes were introduced as a socially distant activity during covid by the PE Dept, there is always an element of risk with them but ID assured that they are regularly maintained along with other equipment such as trampolines. There is an annual bill for this work.

News and General Awareness- AR queried how general knowledge was encouraged and whether there was anything specific being undertaken. ID advised Bishy Bulletin is a creative form, PSE provides current affair detail. AR detailed that news would be routinely read at assembly and asked whether this may be an option. ID notified weekly assemblies are part of the curricular calendar covering the community and local society with a different focus each month, Chaplain also addresses pupils, not necessarily on faith, last one being 09/11. Every YP is precious and inspirational news for children is valuable. TVs are scattered around the areas but need to be repaired. News can be put on and BBC news would relate relevant material. Suggestion of sourcing copies of METRO was made by SM and this was considered a valuable idea.

Credit Awareness, raised previously – were any sessions conducted. ID advised Maths week, all factored into Maths programme. Awareness of inflation, news script, celebrity aware, cost of living crisis. School has warm room and opens up for families with Barista availability. YP have good awareness of cost of living.

Gift donations for Christmas. Under the tree program. Six trolleys were filled at Christmas for those less fortunate, generous donations were made and these were well received. DH mentioned the Halloween tickets accompanied with food donations was an excellent idea.

Recycling – LA advised members that Babes in the Wood took in second hand school clothing and also suggested an idea of a clothing swap shop for a school version of vinted, following the success of the book shop. ID welcomed the idea and will take this to the Capataincy team for consideration.

AL closed the extended meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING –  
TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7.00PM**