



**BISHOPBRIGGS ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE PARENT COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**

Present: Jonathan Campbell (JC); Ian Donaghey (ID); Allison Lunan (AL); Lynn Armour (LA); Kirstie Mendham (KM); Cllr Lynda Williamson; Deb Hart (DH); Shona McCarthy (SMcC); Sam McLean (SMcL); Ashwathy Rajagopal (AR); Cllr Alan Moir; Cllr Lynn Williamson

Apologies: Sheena Murray; Cllr Gordon Low; Cllr Collette McDiarmid

**1 WELCOME**

JC welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked AL for chairing last meeting.

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

The previously circulated Minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> January were agreed.

**3 HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT**

Bike Security

ID informed members that the school bike racks had been the subject of attack - along with a number of other local establishments, by bike thieves who had stolen two valuable bikes. Thieves were security aware, arrived via a van, used face covering and bolt croppers to break the lock to steal one bike before returning on another cheap bike in order to steal the second high end bike. Access had been at a time of high pedestrian passage in area and thief cycled off. Police Scotland advised and providing heightened activity. School have installed bike racks within the internal quadrangle which will be secured during the school day excluding lunchtime, 30 metal bar locks have also been sourced for provision to pupils with inadequate locks. Police also attending to mark bikes. School trying to raise YP awareness at assemblies and encourage use of quadrangle for storage. LA advised Better Briggs can also assist with arrangements of a further date for Police stamping if needed.

Support Programme

Support programme is underway for Young People in S4-6 presently and S3s is planned shortly for transition exams, there are targeted workshops for pupils needing support.

Supported study runs from 28<sup>th</sup> February to 20<sup>th</sup> April for S4-6, with targeted and universal study. Online parents evening raising awareness of resources for parents who don't know how to direct child, this will help structure and personalise revision for YP so study is more effective. School also running targeted workshops for those not effectively studying, poor time management and sleeping. Pupil voice has been consulted with targeted group being S4 and 5. Target key messages for cascading such as mobile phone – quickly distract from study, this is planned for parent info evening so they will be able to support as well. A full Easter

revision programme is taking place throughout first week of the Easter holidays with both morning and afternoon sessions, school trying to ensure that timetable does not clash, subjects missing will be covered in support programme and one subject may have support from another school, DHT is being consulted presently, staff have responded brilliantly for this provision.

### Reporting pupil progress

ID is looking for feedback of model in Senior phase. Previously there had been one parents night with one full written report and a monitoring / tracking period with an interim report, which was part of working time agreement during Covid. Parents were asked whether they would prefer a Parents night and a full written report or four reports detailing Individual Progress & National Progress and bring back face to face parents night or have one on line. This is very difficult for staff. Following consultation the new model was voted for which is now the envy of other schools. With feedback a full written report does not provide as much detail and is very time consuming for staff. The new model provides a first report in October this details working / target grade for the YP, 2<sup>nd</sup> report in December, 3<sup>rd</sup> in February and the fourth in March. For S4,5 & 6 an online parents evening takes place in November and a face to face parents evening takes place in January, this follows key and meaningful assessments. ID sought feedback from members. Members detailed that they like the new process, comments being; getting target grades is very useful, liking the regular reporting process and also appreciating benefit of online as well as face to face parents nights which provides opportunity to see DHT/ Guidance staff as well as subjects not covered with homework.

ID expressed that Satchel reporting goes over and above what they need to, written reports are limited to 1050 characters. SMcC expressed concern for the current S3 year group whereby owing to COVID there has not yet been any face to face parents evening as during the online parents evening (in S2 yr) the system crashed during the meeting. ID informed members that the Platform offering this service has assured that the platform had never crashed before and it crashed Nationally on that occasion . ID has tried bi-monthly reports for the BGE pupils this year and would like to undertake consultation regarding this with consideration of replacing the written report with face to face and online parents evening, had consultation been undertaken before, BGE could have been included earlier. If parents of BGE pupils take on consultation then they will know what it is all about with the passage into Snr phase. Snr phase parents feel well informed. JC commented that On line or face to face relevant conversations can be had.

ID advised that the NP and IP, effort, behaviour and progress is difference in reporting for BGE pupils, Snr Phase reporting is Target Grade and Working Grade, this is broken down and explained. School have tried to ensure clarity and continuity between BGE and Snr phase. A physical written report is a nice keepsake but school is trying to replace that with four reports. AR commented that it could be replaced with bullet points, what can be done to improve should be detailed, identifying specific thing for improvement being beneficial. ID expressed that the limited characters available and if done succinctly it can be achieved but it is the limitation of the reporting system – teachers having to cut it down is one of the drawbacks. SMART manner of reporting in workplace briefly discussed. ID advised that school will be putting out a review and informed members that this is with full backing of Local Authority who are keen that BA share their model with others.

### School Vision & Values

ID observed that on the back of COVID there has been a lot of attention on relationships within school, with YP consideration and compassion being negatively affected. At a

university meeting with other Headteachers throughout Scotland, serious issues of behaviour are being observed. BA does not experience these issues and ID feels that not only the school but also parents should share the School Vision / Values and Aims. ID was with the school when these were created and now feels that they should be revisited with view that associated Primary schools also have this right. Stakeholders should then share the values to ensure Values and Aims are the benchmark to build positive relationships. Challenges are being faced with social media and a review will take place for work to be undertaken next session. PC input will be welcomed and the final view will be shared with PC, succinct in order to remember and query whether this is shared.

Primary – Secondary transition starts with P7 open evening, followed by a Christmas Dance, PE Dept delivering social dance with a live Caelidh band. Enhanced transition visits for pupils with ASN needs in order to get familiar with the school. A number of Department visits – Science deliver a CSI lesson. Primaries are provided resources to continue lessons with these continuing into S1, further visits have taken place over the last couple of weeks with Treasure Hunts taking place.

ID informed members that 1 and 2 language provision will be in place for next session. Modern language Dept has visited schools and found other primaries where English is first language but have a second language taught from P1 to certificate with language 3 introduced at P5 to certification. BA can deliver this – some teaching staff have 3 languages. A Microsoft form issued in P7 in order to choose languages 2 & 3, this will be a first as usually language specified by primary school attending. Gaelic for Learners is also an option, this is logistically challenging but languages are now developed more than ever. There are also two induction days and another parents day to come.

#### Celebration of Achievements

ID informed members that BA has won the Scottish Bar Mock Trial at High Court (Glasgow?) where Lady Rae presided. School will now go forward to the UK finals which are held in the Royal Courts of Justice in London. Mr Gilmore leads the debating teams and gets Barristers in to prepare pupils for the event which is at the end of March, team will travel down on Friday and return on Sunday, ID also accompanying pupils. School budget will cover the cost of this. Representing Scotland is a remarkable confidence boost for these YP.

BA has also become the first school in Scotland to have revision Scotland Level 2 course renewed - Holocaust

## **4 OPTION CHOICE INFORMATION EVENINGS**

ID discussed the Senior Phase options advising lots of pupils and parents need information for discussion to consider the option choices. S4 had to submit forms on Tuesday when issued. Started on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> for S4 to 5 and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> for S5 to 6 yr groups, with a number of option choices available which ID will have to timetable. S4 had to submit forms on Tuesday, when issued, a second information evening would have been beneficial as form was only visible on Monday, member advised via YP phone which was not very visible. ID advised that the option choice forms are visible on school website – discussion took place that Meadowburn primary had found some information had been wiped from the school website, this will be checked. SMcL checked website and located option detail for year groups. School thought two parents information nights would be challenging, there is plenty of additional

information concerning apprenticeships for example. ID confirmed S2 information for option choices starts next week for LA who queried on behalf of a parent enquiry. Each pupil will have Guidance Teacher interview where discussion takes place ensuring full information is provided and not a narrow minded approach. Presentation to parents will include all information and a hard copy will be provided. SMcC queried clashes of option choices and ID explained the cross selling where subjects are moved between the columns. Usually there is an idea before March as to option choices and school will try very hard to ensure that YP get their option choices. School have to consider whether there is enough take up of the subject to consider the staffing of the subject, this is a huge process, school should know before Easter. Gaelic will not be in every column but school is trying to accommodate. SMcC detailed a S4 level agreement for Gaelic pupils ID clarified that if there is a clash with Gaelic and Biology then Biology would be moved. DH advised that BA offers a good selection of other subjects. ID detailed that more subjects are available going into third year, a huge amount of time is spent trying to accommodate curriculum and subject teachers are encouraged to source other subjects and choices for pupils. ID advises S2 parents that there will be a 'hard sell' on Thursday S2 parents info evening by the PT who will be selling their subject. School trying to prepare YP for life and creation of further classes is being looked at but it is impossible to meet every need.

## **5 AOCB**

DH expressed that with Targeted and Universal Study parents need to know how to access Teams and requested that this be communicated clearly to parents. ID explained that this will be shown to parents at Info meetings, YP need to access, there is no navigation around this, help will be provided in order to map it out. Click on subject, week 1 – 2, 3 etc. this is why Information meetings are held in order to cascade this information.

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

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING –  
TUESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2023 AT 7.00PM**