



## BISHOPBRIGGS ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

### MINUTES FOR THE MEETING AND AGM OF THE PARENT COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024

Present: Allison Lunan, Jonathan Campbell, Lynn Armour, Kirstie Mendham, Cllr Gordon Low, Sam McLean, Jane McIntosh, Kenneth Lawani, Kate Ferguson, Julie Watson, Cllr Lynda Williamson, Cllr Alan Moir, Deborah Hart, Linda Lumsden, Steph Fowler, Lyndsay Murray, Ashwathy Rajagopal, Ian Donaghey

Apologies: Cllr Colette McDiarmid

#### 1 WELCOME

JC extended a warm welcome to all attending meeting.

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

Minutes had been circulated electronically prior to the meeting and were accepted as an accurate record. ID clarified a couple of points raised from previous meeting

- ❖ **Vision Value and Aims** ID presented the results of parental consultation, 125 responses had been received from parents with S1 year group parents being the most pro active. Other stake holders have been consulted, pupils already and staff currently. Three Values are being thought about and Vision Statement is also being considered. 'Anything else to add re Vision/ Values' resulted in 64 comments. ID advised that consultation is now in final stages and is hopeful that the lead, Miss McKay will share more about the vision statement at the next PC meeting. ID requested PC consider how best to promote Vision, Values and Aims to all parents. It was noted that the response represents 10% of parent body, ID clarified this is usual figure and feels that parents trust the school, this was supported in year group responses with S1 year group being the most prolific, with less response alongside progression through school. Discussion took place regarding various parental engagement methods and communication timings from school. ID detailed that Satchel has a glitch whereby specific year groups are not currently able to be isolated, resulting in entire school broadcast. This is being flagged to Satchel for resolution, school wants to streamline parent communication.
- ❖ **Librarian** Phillipa Smith started 8<sup>th</sup> January. S5/6 prelims currently ongoing, has been a great way of introducing some pupils and raises profile of subjects covered.

#### 3 HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

##### Matters Arising

- **Option Choice Process**  
Letters have been sent out indicating key dates, Mr. Campbell DHT is leading. Guidance teachers will meet with pupils and discuss option choices.  
S3-4 choosing 7 subjects from 9  
S4-5 choosing 5 subjects from 7  
S5-6 choosing 4 subjects from 5

### S2-3 choosing 9 subjects

This is quite an intensive process and school try to ensure that parents are kept informed. S2 have an additional meeting and Senior phase option evening is next Monday, to ensure parents are fully informed regarding curriculum. BA provides more courses and also uses Vocational programme more than any other ED school, trying to ensure leads to positive destinations always supporting pupils progressing to next stage, whether that be NPA's, Nat 5, Highers etc. ID gave example that one pupil studying childcare / childcare development is assisting in overseeing childcare in a local primary afterschool club. There are new subjects detailed in Column I for option choice with Psychology and Accounting moving into mainstream. Some additional subjects include Creative textiles and Gaelic for learners. Duke of Edinburgh Award is also now being included as a timetabled class alongside the traditional class. This will be a targeted programme for pupils who may not have the same motivation to apply themselves in the usual fashion.

ID explained the S3-4 option process consists of a meeting with Guidance teacher, there are seven columns, each containing a number of subjects. It is not always possible to select all desired subjects as some clash, school tries to adjust to allow choice of 7 best subjects. Use of comments box is strongly encouraged as there is a high success rate for tailoring individual pupils need. Mr. Campbell is speaking to S3 tomorrow and Guidance staff are well informed in order to assist. YP has challenging time and support is in place for this, YP needs to show progression, this is needed in 6<sup>th</sup> year.

S3 transition exams will consist of the 7 subjects being continued. No requirement to sit exams for subjects being dropped. Exams will be taken with Invigilators present in the hall, this is in order to allow YP to become accustomed to exam conditions. NPA for Criminology and Acting / Performance, ID is hopeful that staffing will be accommodated, staff are prepared to do it.

### First Aid

ID informed members that school are keen to provide every opportunity for YP. S4 year group have collectively undertaken an emergency first aid at work course. 172 S4 have been assessed for First Aid skills including CPR and use of defibrillator. School hope this is a skill for life and a Level 6 SQE, a qualification that will stand out on CV as it will still be valid at 6<sup>th</sup> year.

### Parental Engagement

ID very appreciative of parent body support at school events, with a noticeable sense of enjoyment from YP. A drama performance preceded the Christmas Fayre where attendance was good. ID is hopeful that Satchel glitch will be resolved allowing parents to engage with homework, without need to trouble YP. Satchel is and will continue to be used to share information with parents, school want to ensure parents remain engaged. ID sought members opinions in respect of emails from school. A discussion took place regarding this with some suggestions being use of X and including subject headers on emails. Satchel resolution /streamlining is hoped to resolve unnecessary information being shared to all.

### BGE Reporting

ID keen to hear views on the new reporting process for BGE and SP whereby an online parent night and an in-person parent night is supported with four progress reports, throughout the year, detailing monitoring and tracking results. ID provided explanation for new members regarding historical reporting method. Positive views were expressed – good to have a regular, non generic report. School is trying to close the gap between senior phase and BGE reporting. With Effort, Behaviour and Homework being detailed on BGE report it enables learning conversations to take place. School are encouraged that YP have ownership of their

report and are keen to view it at earliest opportunity. A note to parents on Satchel provides the information that reports have been distributed. Following query ID advised that there is a cost implication for the reports to be attached to Satchel for comparison purposes. One member advised that there is a provision on the Parents portal but this is currently blank, queried whether guidance teachers may be able to assist with this.

It was noted that an 'in person' parents night is better for parental engagement, nice to meet staff/parents. ID advised workshops will continue running during parents night to maximise any spare time between appointments. A 90% attendance rate is usual and it is intended to maintain the blended approach going forwards. Teachers will need to manage the 5 min timings, as any over run impacts negatively on those who follow – good thing with on-line, just cuts off and focuses conversation on key information. One member detailed issue with twins and online double booking of appointments for each YP not being possible. This had not previously been considered - **ID will look into on line booking capability for twins.**

#### Prelim Analysis

S4 have next parent evening, booking went live today. School are in process of looking at prelim results. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year are sitting theirs currently. Year Heads, Guidance and Principal Teachers will go through analysis to ID. This will identify those YP needing additional support, whether attendance or other complex issue. Bespoke timetables can be accommodated, school work around getting something to suit the individual or group. Year Heads are able to assist with this. PEF team can run workshops addressing issues identified. Another block of supported study will run in March and it is hoped that the Easter revision programme will be able to run again. School is adequately resourced in order to support, S4 currently followed by S5/6. RA queried comparisons and ID advised he runs 3 and 5 yr comparisons and looks at every department. ID also advised that the complexity of additional subjects, for example Application of Maths, provides opportunity of additional Nat 5 with no additional coursework/ class necessitated. This will be expanded going forwards and ID confident that school are giving every opportunity for YP to fulfil potential.

## **4 AOCB**

### Parental monetary requests

KM highlighted number of requests received throughout December – charity donations, food bank, toy appeal, trips etc leading to approx £100 outlay. Everything seemed to come at once at an expensive time of year and this should be considered, particularly for disadvantaged families as costs mount up very quickly. Members discussed some feeder primary school PCs also looking at similar issue. ID was concerned to hear music and history educational trips being charged and assured this would be looked into as these should be cost free..

### Social Media

KL – Expressed concern regarding teacher actively recommending and encouraging detrimental social media use (Tik Tok account and Snap Chat) for YP. ID detailed that there is a very clear school policy in respect of social media use. In ED not every child has access to their own device, there are occasions when IT can enhance experience and is a very powerful resource, teachers can ask YP to use mobile device and can instantly see ICT benefit. However, Social media goes against School Ethos as there is a very dangerous side to it as well. KL to discuss with ID outwith meeting. This is not something that is being promoted at BA as both can be very dangerous, however some are safe and ID detailed that Science particularly has good revision resources accessible via You Tube. Some material content on Tik Tok can vary.

### SQA – ASN assessment

SM has become aware that some ASN students who are currently undiagnosed and seemingly masking well within school environment, are experiencing complete melt down at home. SM wished to clarify position with SQA and allocation of additional support requirement, pending any assessment and diagnosis given the time frame that this now takes. ID advised that school was verified by SQA last year for the purpose of teachers being able to gather and submit relevant evidence that YP is in need of support and is able to be given this. It is clear cut that YP can have additional time if school have this evidence. Some YP with ASN do not need it and if this is the case, medical evidence that they do is required. An open conversation needs to take place and this will lead to a Well Being Assessment being individually carried out by the YP, the parents and the school resulting in a Universal Support Plan being developed for that YP. Open engagement by parents in the first instance is key.

### School Trips

One member detailed alarm at the expense of advertised foreign trips, asking whether there were any ‘middle of the road’ trips – with appropriate time to pay for them. ID advised that Activities week takes place in June with a number of UK based trips (cost reflective of London for that trip), local trips and also in house activities, catering for all pockets, school is mindful to provide a complete range and try to be inclusive for everyone. Feedback from parents was that foreign trips needed to be launched together – preventing disappointment when one had already been selected over one that would have been preferable. Certain funding revenues may be available if needed. ID advised some schools have done away completely with activities week. These trips really benefit the pupil/ teacher relationship too. There is also a German and Geneva exchange. A full list of activities and trips available during activities week will be advised to all parents in due course.

JC thanked all for their attendance.

### **Next Meeting Date:**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Conference Room**