



BISHOPBRIGGS ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING AND AGM OF THE
PARENT COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 28th OCTOBER 2025

Members Present: Sam McLean, Ester Hillen, Jane McIntosh, Gayle Don, Kate Ferguson, Lynn Armour, Allison Lunan, Darren Nichol, Ashwathy Rajagopal, Steph Fowler, Jonathan Campbell.

Further Attendees: Ian Donaghey, Julie Watson, Cllr Gordon Low, Cllr Lynda Williamson, Debbie Fraser.

Apologies: Kirstie Mendham, Cllr Colette McDiarmid, Julie Dey, Ken Lewani, Melodie Crumlin, Melanie McKendrick, Jo Whittets, Cllr Alan Moir

1 WELCOME

JC extended a warm welcome to all.

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. To be uploaded onto school website.

Critical Incident – Stay in Place Policy update; ID advised that a site visit has been arranged by Mr. Campbell and it is not possible for a policy to be ‘lifted’, there are a number of people to be liaised with before a draft version can be generated. This will be communicated to PC in due course. For further update.

3 HEAD TEACHER’S REPORT

ID provided update with assistance of PowerPoint to all members.

Staffing

ID informed members that Ewan McRae S4 DHT would require a lengthy recovery period, following a planned knee operation in the new year, resulting in a temporary post to cover his absence. Acting Depute Head Teacher interviews would be taking place on Wednesday 5th November. Interview panel consisting of HT, Authority member, another Depute and a member of PC (with PVG). Post on My job Scotland, as well as one for internal staff. PT notice period is 6-8 weeks, if internal candidate success there will be a knock on effect, for other staff recruitment, advert will be for one week. ID hopeful to have someone appointed in advance of start date to allow a detailed hand over.

PT for History & Modern Studies - Tim Laver is taking early retirement, he has been a wonderful member of staff, starting with Bishopbriggs High in the 90’s and continuing with the Academy, he has contributed lots across the school and is a digital literacy guru. ID formally expressed his thanks and well wishes for retirement.

DofE

ID advised that approximately fifty S5 pupils are undertaking DofE Bronze award with the new cohort of S4 just about to sign up for this year, an information evening for parents

explaining what is involved on 20th November. Initial plans were for 28 but owing to the demand this has been increased. BA is one of the few schools in Scotland that do not charge for educational events. DofE is also being introduced as a Column I option choice for some S3 pupils, who would not normally undertake the opportunity, to allow development of skills with teacher support. It is generally an extra curricular activity for S4 pupils. School are utilising youth workers for the time consuming electronic registration which is very beneficial and have 5 staff and other helpers assisting pupils with their award. School will also look to embark pupils on Silver and Gold Awards this session.

Pupil Health and Wellbeing

Whole school results for the September Well-being Tracker were shared with members, there will be another one undertaken in January. This does not just focus on mental health. Anything uncovered by the tracker are followed up. Overall almost all pupils report they have a positive experience of BA and feel supported. 97% pupils feels safe in school. 93% pupils have at least one adult they feel confident speaking to if they needed help or support. 63% pupils feel rested and ready to attend school most mornings. 96% pupils have access to enough food during the day. 92% pupils feel they have opportunities to share their views in classes and across the wider school. 97% pupils feel supported by school staff to do their best. 93% pupils feel part of the school community. 95% pupils feel that staff in school respect them. 94% pupils feel that they can take part in active learning across the school week. 78% pupils feel there are opportunities in school for them to enjoy outdoor learning. 89% pupils believe they have opportunities to be involved in decisions about learning and the whole school community. 94% pupils feel listened to by staff. 94% pupils feel they have different opportunities to take part in leadership opportunities in the school. 82% pupils feel confident in reporting and/or challenging inequality in school. 88% pupils feel their success in school is recognised by others. 95% pupils feel part of the school and proud to be a pupil at Bishopbriggs Academy. Tracker has revealed the need for development in the following areas: 1. Ways of educating and supporting YP on their night time routines and sleep hygiene (37% do not feel rested and ready to attend school) are required, 2. Encourage departments to offer more outdoor learning (22% believe no opportunity to enjoy outdoor learning) and 3. Grow pupil confidence in reporting acts of discrimination (18% are not confident reporting or challenging inequality in school) ensuring this is done in a discreet and confidential manner.

SHANARRI (Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included) Assemblies – Each month, the school Wellbeing Ambassadors present on one of the themes above to every year group to raise awareness and share top tips. Currently focusing on sleep. SHINE survey indicates improvement over the last three years but the 63/37% divide indicates still ongoing matter. School raising awareness with a 2 minute sleep video detailing what good sleep routines are and what they can do for you. Ambassadors have created a poster, a ‘request to chat’ facility via year group Teams page and a daily wellbeing club which is open to everyone.

ID explained that the House Council have already met, which discusses feedback from every House Tutor class from every year group. The Pupil Leadership Forum, consisting of the House Captains and School Captaincy team summarise areas of school development they want to raise with SLT. School Captains then meet with SLT and present feedback and discuss possible solutions. This is then followed up with ‘You say, We did’ assemblies outlining steps that are/will be taken to address matters. YP see House Council effective and can shape and influence school life.

Senior Phase Pupil Support Programme

ID shared the programmes for Senior Phase pupils expressing that Working Grade / Target Grade conversations with pupil / teacher /parents takes place. Raising attainment team identify individuals for after school sessions, offered universal study to continue at home. Supported Study for six weeks 20/10 – 27/11 with prelims commencing for S4 28/11. Builds positive momentum.

S4 programme

Monitoring and Tracking shared 081025. Supported study 201025-271125. Prelims commence 281125. Monitoring and Tracking shared 081225. Prelim results shared via Satchel w/b 151225. Online parents evening 130126. Monitoring and Tracking shared 090226. Supported study 230226-020426. Easter Revision (prov) 07-100426. SQA exams 220426.

S5/6 programme

Monitoring and Tracking shared 081025. October exams 22-281025. Results shared via Satchel w/b 031125. Supported study 031125-111225. Online parents evening 101125. Monitoring and Tracking shared 081225. Prelims commence 060126. Prelim results shared via Satchel w/b 190126. Monitoring and Tracking shared 090226. Supported study 230226-020426. Easter Revision (prov) 07-100426. SQA exams 220426.

ID explained that 6th Year Advanced Higher has no supported study as a means for University preparation. It was also clarified that the study leave during prelim exams is a deliberate decision by the school. It replicates the exam diet and sometimes YP really benefit, tackle it like a typical school day, important exercise which also gives the YP time to study. When exam diet is finished the senior phase pupils move up to next year group starting their new timetable then. BGE pupils start theirs in May.

School Events

Strictly come Dancing – Wednesday 19th November.

Bishy Christmas Market – Saturday 6th December.

Christmas Dances and School Concert

4 AOCB

School Mobile Phone Policy

EDC mobile phone policy has been circulated to all members for information.

ID informed members that LA have been contacted to purchase bank of ICT tablets with specific functionality. This will address any concerns regarding pupils using mobile phones as a means to engage in learning activities. BA is Authority approved pilot school, if pilot works school may be able to bulk buy notebooks/tablets. In respect of data, YP should not be expected to have a mobile phone, if YP comes home expressing inability to undertake a task because they do not have access, this is something the school needs to know. ID expressed EDC policy appears aligned and is reliant on parents feeding back information to the school.

PVG Requirement for PC, Constitution and Member / Attendee Difference

Amendment to constitution made by SMcL, circulated to all members. Approval given for amended constitution to be distributed for school website.

5 AGM

JC explained role of Chair to members, providing PC representation to SLT interview process, attending Parent Council Forums, Chairing PC meetings. ID thanked JC for undertaking the role and for providing great support, giving parental insight as a different viewpoint with a calm supportive manner which has been appreciated.

Election of committee

Vice Chair – Kate Ferguson – proposed JC, seconded Gayle Don

Chair – Allison Lunan – proposed SMcL, seconded JC

Clerk – Sam McLean – proposed LA, seconded AL

Discussion then took place among members in respect of PTFA who are desperate for funds and assistance, trying to raise money for school minibus. Requesting members share information to get others involved.

Members thanked for their attendance.

Next Meeting Dates:

Tuesday 13th January 2026, 7pm – Conference room

Tuesday 24th February 2026, 7pm – Conference room

Tuesday 28th April 2026, 7pm – Conference room

Tuesday 9th June 2026, 7pm – Conference room