



BOCLAIR ACADEMY

PARENT COUNCIL MINUTES

MONDAY 4th November 2024 6.30pm

PRESENT: Annette McKenna, Christine Lee, Dominic Gonzalez, Elaine Dallas, Gaynor Bilton, Jenny Kerr, Jillian Mooney, Kirsteen Graham, Sandeep Kaur, Susan Rae.

Staff:, Douglas Brown, Fiona Curran, Glenn Thompson, Jen Cleisham, Nick Walsh.

1. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies: Angela Thomas, Claire Arthur, Claire Taylor, Clare Morgan, Duncan Beattie, Geoff Miles.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting on Monday 13th May 2024 were approved by Jenny Kerr and seconded by Elaine Dallas.

3. Matters arising

- Elaine Dallas reported that an audit of the finances is in progress.
- DB confirmed that drop in sessions had been organized as requested for early applicant young people which were appreciated by the families who attended.

4. Role of PC Chairperson

Gaynor Bilton has stepped forward to take on the role.

5. Treasurer Report

Elaine Dallas reported that the bank account has been unused in the last 2 years with £17 in the account. The bank has been contacted regarding changing account but this would introduce monthly charges. It was proposed the bank account be closed. Following discussion, including setting up as a charity account, it was decided it is a complex process changing anything around the account therefore it was agreed to close the account by January 2025 and one could be opened if / when the need arises.

6. Head Teacher Report

Learning Festival success

Boclair Academy hosted the second EDC Learning Festival with over 600 teachers attending from across the local authority. There was positive collaboration around effective learning and teaching and moderation, and staff feedback has been really positive.

Learning visits

The SLT are currently conducting a series of learning visits across the school with all staff being visited. A number of focus groups of children have allowed the team to sample views on learning taking place across all subjects.

Attainment meetings

We have started the process of attainment meetings with all departments – based on the updated insight. The local authority attainment meeting takes place on Thursday 14th November.

Lendrick Muir success

The S1 residential allowed 160 young people to take part in activities in Lendrick Muir. Young people were a credit to their families and the school.

Foreign Trips

Information is now out about a future Krakow trip, a future Portugal trip and a future France trip

Mock Interviews

S6 mock Interviews will take place on Tuesday 5th November. Interviews will be carried out by a range of guests from a variety of employment sectors with pupils receiving feedback on the day or shortly afterwards. S6 have been preparing for their interview in PSE lessons and this opportunity will give them a 'real life' experience to help improve their interviews skills and confidence for the future. Interview times have been sent to student glow email and posted on teams.

S5/S6 Parents' Evening

Our S5/S6 Parents Evening takes place on Wednesday this week and I looked forward to seeing all our S5 and S6 parents at some point during the evening. This is a good opportunity to discuss your child's early progress and look ahead to the Prelims in January.

Pathways Evening

Following on from our UCAS evening in October, where school staff presented on the application process for University, I am delighted to invite you to a further pathways evening on Thursday this week where parents will be provided with information on college applications, employment and training providers. This will be of particular interest to parents of young people in the senior phase of the school but all parents are welcome to attend.

Fulbright visit

Following on from the successful visit in October from colleagues from Scottish Government to discuss the school's successful approach to using the Pupil Equity Fund to support young people, we are hosting a visit from School Principals from the USA on Friday of this week. The visit is part of the Fulbright scheme and Boclair has been selected for the visit due to the high levels of success in supporting young people. It is a real honour to host this visit and I look forward to updating you on the visit in due course.

Supported Study

Our supported study programme for S4-6 pupils begins after school today and runs throughout the month of November. There are over eighty sessions on offer across each week and free school buses are being provided to Torrance and Westerton for pupils to return home. The full timetable and arrangements can be found on the school website.

Family Learning

Following the success of our junior school family learning event earlier this year I am pleased to invite senior phase parents to a Family Learning event next Thursday, 14th November themed "Preparing for Senior Phase Qualifications and Beyond". This will offer parents an opportunity to work with staff from various subjects across the school on how to support their child to pass their SQA qualifications. English and Maths will deliver a similar session later in November in order to allow parents to attend other subjects during this event. Further details and sign up will be communicated later this week.

Insight

D Brown provided a detailed analysis of the school's attainment using the key areas of the Scottish Government Insight Benchmarking Tool. Overall, the attainment for the school has been strong across all measures when compared to the Virtual Comparator, the Local Authority and the national perspective.

7. Date of next meeting

Monday 2nd December 2024

8. AOCB

Nil

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm