



BOCLAIR ACADEMY

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 24th February 2025 6.30pm

PRESENT: Christine Lee, Claire Arthur, Duncan Beattie, Elaine Dallas, Gaynor Bilton, Graham Murray, Kirsteen Graham.

Staff: Clare Morgan, Douglas Brown, Glenn Thomson, Isobel McGhee, Jen Cleisham, Maxine Trainor, Morna Holmes.

1. Welcome & Apologies

GB welcomed members to the meeting and DB introduced Isobel McGhee and Morna Holmes to the Council.

Apologies: Claire Taylor, Geoff Miles, Jenny Kerr, Fiona Curran, Nick Walsh

2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting Monday 20th January 2025 were approved by Claire Arthur and seconded by Christine Lee.

3. Matters Arising

DB informed that previous Parent Council (PC) minutes are now on the school website with more still to be uploaded.

GB has reviewed the constitution regarding fundraising: if the members agree that as part of governance and support of the school, PC can partake in fundraising without revising the constitution. It was agreed by attending members.

GB spoke of a possible grant the PC could apply for from Bearsden South Community Council who have £3000 pot for a one off grant. It was agreed that pupils would decide what to apply for. DB suggested items such as sports / science equipment could be options. As pupils are presenting at the next PC meeting, they would bring their ideas.

Action: DB involve pupil council

GB check for any deadlines for application

GB and ED investigated potential bank accounts and discussed options of this and fundraising with the Chair of Killermont PTA. Options included the use of Square, QR codes, easyfundraising.org.

Action: GB & ED to investigate further.

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4. Head Teacher Report

Staffing update

Miss Scott History/Modern Studies is currently absent – TT has now been adapted. Mrs Williams in Art is currently absent – TT has now been adapted and additional support put in place. Miss Crichton in Music is currently absent – TT has been adapted and Supply teacher appointed.

Reports

Tracking reports for S4 have now been issued. These reports provide an overview of the working grades and target grades for young people in S4. S5 and S6 Reports are currently going through final quality assurance and should be available by the end of this week. In addition, where performance in courses indicates a need to consider a change of level, letters will be issued early next week asking parents/carers and young people to consider this.

SQA

The SQA timetable has now been finalised following some changes to the initial timetable. This was to reduce the number of coincident exams. As a result the SQA exam diet is now starting earlier than expected on Friday 25th April. In order to give young people the opportunity to prepare properly for the first exam, exam leave will now start on Thursday 24th April.

S6 Last Day

As a result of the change to the SQA diet, the final celebration day for S6 will now take place on Friday 4th April. Young people will have a final day of shirt signing, breakfast rolls and then paintballing. This will be the S6's last day of school other than when they are in school to finalise their folios or to sit exams.

Transition

We welcomed P7 pupils to our STEM and Business challenges in February over two days, with Torrance and Killermont on day 1 and Colquhoun, St Nicholas and Westerton on day 2. This was an extremely positive experience and young people enjoyed both the sessions as well as the toast and hot chocolate. Enhanced transition for a small number of young people has also begun and will continue over the coming months. The next stage of transition is visits by our Support for Learning team to join classes across all our associated primary schools.

Further and Higher Education event

Our Further and Higher Education Information Evening in January was another great success. Speakers from The University of Glasgow, The University of Strathclyde and City of Glasgow College and two members of our school staff, delivered presentations on further and higher education. Parents and carers were offered four sessions over the course of the evening.

Paris trip

Thank you to the staff who organised the highly successful Paris trip for senior pupils over the long weekend. Young people and staff came back tired but happy and really enjoyed the experience.

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In-service Day

Our in-service day in February focussed on improving our approaches to learning and teaching, and on departmental improvement priorities.

Curriculum Planning

The curriculum planning process is underway. Four parent information sessions took place in February with booklets and presentations now on the website. The S2 Careers fayre took place last week with a variety of partners supporting our young people. Individual interviews are now underway with all S2 – S5 pupils

Following consultation with parent council, pupil council and staff, curriculum planning will continue to offer flexibility to young people. The overall guidance of choosing from across the curricular areas will remain, but we will work with individuals to get the best range of subjects that suits their needs and aspirations. Following consultation we will also offer young people the opportunity to take Spanish rather than French, but with the requirement to have a good level of proficiency before being allowed to drop French for Spanish.

5. Raising Attainment Strategies

D Brown provided an overview of the range of strategies employed to raise attainment and achieve positive outcomes for young people:

- Four attainment meetings with PTs to discuss cohorts and individual pupil progress
- Use data, including Insight and tracking data, to support these conversations
- Two blocks of supported study across all subjects and levels
- Easter Revision
- Study weekend
- Free transport home
- Targeted post prelim subject support instead of core periods throughout March
- Targeted approach to supported study
- Individual meetings with young people – Year Heads and Guidance
- Targeted support for young people through various resources across the support spine
- Additional masterclass sessions during study leave to support preparations for exams or to ensure course completion
- Senior Phase mentoring support
- Revision materials issued to support young people
- Study technique sessions
- Exam calm space
- All materials on Teams, ACHIEVE and/or SCHOLAR
- Subject specific supports

6. PSE Programme Overview

Isobel McGhee provided an overview of the PSE Programme. She informed the PC that every pupil gets 1 period per week of PSE. Topics include mental Health issues, including exam stress, teen brain, anxiety and self-harm; plan for choices and changes, including careers and lifestyles, future

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pathways, substance abuse; SHRE; S1 Road Safety; S4 Study Techniques; S5/6 Rosey Project; S6 Finances and SAAS; Raising awareness, including Black History Month, Poverty week, Gender based violence, anti-bullying, LGBT, Autism acceptance.

At the end of the presentation, following discussion, DB offered to include a family learning event if enough interest. Topics could be put onto the school website for parents to see.

7. Second Parents Evening Discussion

GB enquired whether a second parents evening was an option and would it be preferred to a progress report. Discussion followed re value, other schools' position on this, online or in person. Some wondered if for senior phase pupils the in person event was too early in the year. Progress reports might mean parents do not follow up whereas in person means direct contact with the teacher. Following further discussion it was agreed to revisit this issue at another meeting, after more thought and perhaps discussion with pupils themselves.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 24th March 2025 6.30pm

9. AOCB

DB asked opinions on a blanket ban of mobile phones. School policy is that phones are out of sight unless the teachers allow. This is advocated by Scottish Government but is leaving final decisions to schools individually.

This does not seem to be an issue within the school but other schools noted in the press, have experienced problems. Other devices can be brought in but there would be no Wifi, hence use of phones.

Discussion will continue at next month's PC meeting.

PC funding sits within the school accounts for clerks fees etc. This will be used for Easter study school as in previous years.

GB raised the possibility of a joint litter pick with Killermont Primary. The school are in agreement.

Action: GB will contact KPS.

CA reported a young pupil had a near miss of being knocked down outside the school recently and queried whether anything road safety actions could be put in place. The grandparent of the child is contacting the council separately. DB stated IG had raised previously as councilor but nothing had changed.

Action: DB would contact the grandparent involved who has been liaising with the council on the matter and see if he would speak with GB

If appropriate, the PC would contact the council as well.

DB to include in next report / school update a reminder to parents / carers to be more safety conscious when driving near the school.

The meeting closed at 8PM

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