BOCLAIR ACADEMY
PARENT COUNCIL MINUTES
MONDAY 1st December 2025 6.30pm

PRESENT: Christine Lee, Elaine Dallas, Kirsteen Graham, Gaynor Bilton, Helen Grech, Ian Gallagher, Isabel Irving, Mihir Navalkar.
Staff: Douglas Brown, Glenn Thompson, Grant Irvine, Katie Scott, Nick Walsh, Nicki Carson. Guest: Kyle (school captaincy team)

1. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies: Claire Arthur, Claire Taylor, Clare Morgan, Duncan Beattie, Fiona Curran, Graham Murray, Jenny Kerr, Susan Rae.

2 Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the last AGM on Monday 3rd November 2025 were approved by Christine Lee and seconded by Elaine Dallas.

3 Matters arising

- Safe crossing at school gates – IG informed that a meeting had been arranged for traffic officers to attend with GB, DB and members of the school captaincy team on Tuesday 2nd December to discuss the road safety issues at the school entrance. Various options will be explored and results of discussion will be disseminated. II requested information on whether traffic had increased to the school following the cessation of Westerton buses.

Action: IG /GB report to BPC with findings at the next meeting.

- Christmas Hampers – GB had sent a link for parents to donate to the Christmas hamper appeal and so far, £277 has been raised. Feedback can be given on the link and feedback has been positive. QR codes will also be made available for the upcoming school events.
  Action: DB will include a reminder when emailing parents and carers.

4 Head Teacher Report

Staffing update

Like many schools, Boclair Academy is experiencing some absence challenges as we enter the winter months. A number of staff have also been absent due to family circumstances. As we move towards the Christmas holidays it is looking like staffing is starting to settle down as staff return to work. Hannah Chesney starts maternity leave next week. Sophie Douglas starts a career break next month. Technical has been re-timetabled following a medium term absence.

Pupil Council

Our Pupil Council met at the start of November to discuss matters relating to school

improvement. During the meeting we discussed: School Review; Learning and Teaching; uniform; school crossing; and our new School charity – Beatson. Our next meeting is scheduled for later this week.

RRSA

Two Fridays ago, we held a hot chocolate Friday in recognition of International Children's Day to support the UNCRC's Rights of the Child. This is to promote and celebrate children's human rights, following the UN's adoption of the UNCRC on 20th November 1989.

DYW

Our pathways event last week was very well attended with around 20 partners from University, college and employment along to help parents understand the pathways available to young people. Following discussions with Parent Council last year it was agreed to combine the event to ensure vocational, college and university partners were available for parents on the same evening. We also agreed to open this up to earlier years so this year it was for S3 – S6 parents. The event for pupils is this week and will follow the same format.

Family Learning Events

BGE, Senior Phase and the English and Maths weekend. Very positive feedback and particular thanks to parents and staff who came in on Saturday morning.

Bar Mock Trial

Congratulations to Boclair Academy's Bar Mock Trial Team following their victory in the Scottish heat of the competition in November 2025 in the High Court in Glasgow. The Bar Mock Trial Competition helps young people aged 15-18 understand how the law touches every aspect of their lives, gaining an insight into how the legal justice system works. Students who take part are encouraged to think critically, build arguments and oracy skills, and boost their confidence. Through enabling students to interact with legal professionals, the competition helps develop employability skills. Taking on roles such as Advocates, witnesses and court staff, Boclair students prosecuted and defended cases against other Scottish schools in front of Judges from the faculty of Advocates in Scotland. Following their victory, the team now moves on to compete in the UK finals as Scottish Champions in March 2026.

Mentors in Violence Prevention

S6 Peer Mentors have been in classes leading learning on topics such as healthy relationships, social media and the bystander approach of seeking help in a crisis.

Christmas Hampers

Our Christmas Hamper appeal also continues this week, and I would encourage you to send in items suitable for a Christmas Hamper, or bring them in on your next visit to the school.

Reports

Our S4 Reports are currently being completed, and we will have them ready for sending home to parents during week commencing 8th December. This will give S4 parents a good understanding of their child's progress at this mid-point in S4.

Prelims

Our Prelims for S4, S5 and S6 take place in January and run from Monday 12th January to 23rd January 2026. A draft Prelim timetable was issued to Parent Council members.

Snow Ball and Christmas Events

Next Tuesday, 9th December, sees the first of our festive events, with our Snow Ball for S5 and S6 students. Following this we have our Christmas Concert on Thursday 11th December from 7.00pm to 9.00 pm, and our two dance shows on Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th December.

Last week of Term

We will have a busy last week of term with cinema trip on Wednesday 17th December and on Thursday 18th around 400 pupils will attend the Mamma Mia trip. We also look forward to our Christmas Assembly on the morning of Friday 19th December followed our Christmas Karaoke on the Friday afternoon. Please note that the school closes to pupils at 2.30 on that last day of term.

School Improvement

D Brown outlined the various self-evaluation activities that combine to inform the School Improvement Plan. He then presented to Parent Council on the School Improvement priorities for the coming year along with the high-level actions within each of the priorities. The presentation included the various staff and pupil contributions to school improvement work across the school. D Brown also highlighted the very positive Quality Review process and the feedback the school received.

5 Easyfundraising

GB explained how this initiative works, and suggested that, as feedback from parents has been positive, opening out to the wider school community in January with a specific fundraising focus of the upcoming London trip to the Bar Mock Finals. There was also a suggestion to explore the possibility of getting business owner parents / carers involved. Discussion followed and it was agreed that a soft launch would be appropriate now, and in the future, promote for specific fundraising.

Action: Anyone willing to help GB with looking after the Easyfundraising, email parentcouncil@boclair.e-dunbarton.sch.uk or KG.

6 Westerton Buses

A concerned parent had raised the issue of transport from Westerton area to BA. IG informed that EDC had no obligation to provide transport if the school was within a 3 mile radius. Previously Allander buses had been used in the past but this service ceased 2 years ago due to various issues: costs, upkeep, number of service users. A private contract would be required going forward between parents and a bus company. ED reported that there were parents in Westerton area looking into private contracts.

DB informed that the drop off procedure through the car park has been working well and alleviating some of the problem.

7 Prom Attire

KG attended an event at Douglas Academy for the sale of preloved prom dresses and described the format. She proposed BPC could hold a similar event and include suits, shoes and bags. The

event promotes sustainability by recycling already purchased outfits for new owners to re-use.
Action: Kyle will take to pupil council for their input and feedback.

8 Dates of next meeting

Monday 19th January 2026 6.30 pm in the school.

9 AOCB

CL asked for reassurance for parents of the fire safety in BA in light of incidents at another school in EDC. DB explained that as a new school, there are effective measures in place. The school has aligned risk assessments and fire prevention policies and compliance.

GB reported on attending the Parent Council Forum who shared the new aims and values. For full details, GB is happy to share on request. The Forum is open to all. Repeated requests by PC Chairs to ensure the meetings are more interactive have been acknowledged and there is assurance this will happen in future meetings.

The meeting closed at 8.15 PM