

Kirkcudbright Academy Parent Council Meeting

Monday 26th August, 2024

Present: Chair: Laura Moodie Treasurer: Gill Durham / Emma Harrington Clerk: Julia Archibald

Rector: Mr Tuffery Teacher Rep. Shameen Syed

Pupil Council: Iona White, Hannah Chen, William Cawthorne

Parent Members: Jacqueline White, Rebecca McFarlane, Neil Robins

Parent Forum: Angharad Storrie

Zoom Gill Durham

1. Welcome & Apologies Claire Johnston, Lesley Garbutt, Clair Baxter

2. Approval of last Minutes and any matters arising

The Minutes are approved. No matters arising.

3. Head's Report

Mr Tuffery reported that the new session had got off to a good start and was pleased to welcome the new intake.

Results The exam results were as anticipated and the proportion of pupils getting A-C at National 5 and Higher is at the level the school would expect to be. KBT is ahead of its two comparable schools - Castle Douglas and Dalbeattie and is fifth on the results table for Dumfries and Galloway after Moffat, Wallace Hall, St Joseph's and Dumfries High School. Some subjects have been noted for potential for improvement next year though the variables with small cohorts are difficult to adjust.

Laura asked if there were any Appeals? Mr Tuffery replied that there are about 10 but that he didn't expect any grade alteration as the appeal process only checks that the papers are marked and that the marks are added up correctly. Laura asked if there was still an impact from Covid? Mr Tuffery replied that there is in - mental health, gaps in knowledge and school attendance issues and this was both nationally and internationally.

4. Treasurer's Report

Gill is in the process of handing over the role of Treasurer to Emma Harrington.

Account stands at £2312:97.

The band and caller for the Fringe Ceilidh have been paid a deposit £300 – with £300 still to pay.

The Staff Welfare fund is to receive £250.

Action Gill /Emma to pay this.

Draw June Winner J Frew July Laura Moodie August AJ Houfe September to be drawn

Ceilidh is on September 8th in the Parish Hall with Bruce Mackenzie's band. Tickets are available from Thomsons Newsagents. Capacity is 100.

Action Pupil Council to create more publicity for the event on social media and to encourage younger age group pupils and parents to attend. . Ms Syed to encourage S1 to attend.

Volunteers will be needed on the night for set up, soft drinks sales, selling raffle tickets. Raffle prizes are needed.

Action Gill to provide float.

5. Chair's Report

This was circulated in advance. No comments or questions.

6. Pupil Council

The House Captains were welcomed and expressed an interest in working with the Parent Council for mutual support and encouragement. They intend to rotate between the three of them as to who comes to the Parent Council meetings. There is a set events calendar that they work to and will work with the Parent Council as appropriate to support this. At the moment they are working towards Rights Week.

Mr Tuffery asked if Pupil Council matters could come at the beginning of the agenda in future so that the attendee could go home after that item.

Action Laura to adjust Agenda accordingly.

7. Community Liaison There used to be an opportunity for the Rotary to contribute with an update about activities etc. Since Paul Tebay stood down as Rotary Chair there has been no real contact with the Rotary although their activities have continued as usual.

Action Laura to contact Paul for an update.

Mr Tuffery said there will be a talk to S4 by local author Alan Bisset as part of KBT Fringe and appreciation was expressed for this.

8. AOB

Change of dates There has been a request from the Janitor to change some of the meeting dates from a Monday evening to a Tuesday Please note the following changes:

Monday 10th February changed to Tuesday 11th February 6:00pm

Monday 28th April – 29th April 6:00pm

AGM Monday 16th June – 17th June 7:00pm

Consultation on Asymmetric School Week for Primary and Secondary schools

KBT Consultation will take place on 18th September 4:30-7:00pm.

The proposal is for a longer school day Monday-Thursday (30 mins longer) with the school closing at 1:40 pm on a Friday. In addition, the school timetable would be the same across Dumfries and Galloway. All lessons would be 50 mins long with three lessons between Break and Lunch. School would still start at 8:50. This is for implementation in 2025 if approved. School Transport would be part of the new arrangements.

Laura encouraged as many parents to attend the consultation as possible.

Mr Tuffery said consultations with Dalbeattie and Castle Douglas are taking place this week. The consultation document was live and would feature summaries and FAQs as the consultation process takes place.

S6 Common Room

Gill asked when this would be available to pupils? Mr Tuffery said the work to create this was ongoing, but it should be completed soon. It has been proposed to pupils that the Common Room be primarily a study area, although the opportunity to socialize is there.

Action Mr Tuffery to update re: progress on the Common Room at the next meeting.

School Transport

Laura reported an issue with School Transport – no bus to or from school for her children one day this week. Also, the large Gatehouse bus is unavailable.

Mr Tuffery stated that school Transport should be informed if there are issues as this is not under the control of the school.

Action Laura to contact School Transport

Next Meeting

Tuesday 8th October at 6:00pm