

Kirkcudbright Academy Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 9th September 2025

Present: Chair: Rebecca McFarlane Treasurer: Emma Harrington Clerk: Julia Archibald

Rector: Mr Tuffery Teacher Rep. Shameen Syed

Pupil Council: No representative

Parent Members: Neil Robins Clair Baxter Laura Moodie

Parent Forum: Joanne McMillan

Rotary Chair: Mike Duguid

Community Council: Ian Swan

Zoom Nicky Duncan

1. Welcome &Apologies Rebecca welcomed everyone to the first meeting of this academic year introducing herself as Chair. Others present also introduced themselves.

Apologies John Denerley

2.Approval of last Minutes and any matters arising

The Minutes are approved. No matters arising.

3. Pupil Liaison

Although there were no members of the Pupil Council present, Rebecca has met with them and reports that they are very enthusiastic and keen to work with the Parent Council on different projects. They are still organising their ideas but have decided to support the charity CRY - Cardiac Risk in the Young and JDRF- a diabetes charity. Joint projects with the PC might be a Film Night and a Clothes Drive (uniform and general clothing avoiding fast fashion). This event is to take place on the last day of term when pupils will have access at lunchtime before it is opened to the general public. Their meeting time will probably be on Friday lunchtime with Ms Syad in the conference room. Rebecca hopes to join these meetings.

4. Community Liaison

Ian Swan reported on the Community Council's ongoing projects. A new shelter in the Harbour Square and the development of the old Police Station as a community hub supporting those with mental health issues and also those with additional needs. As ever there is a need for funding. Ian commented on the need for support from the local councillors. He also highlighted the issue of the bridge and the traffic restrictions.

Rotary see below.

5.Head's Report

Mr Tuffery reported that the term had started well. There are no changes in staffing.

Exam results- still getting to grips with the overall results as released by the government. S4 had strong results and some outstanding individual results (one person gained 100% in the two Maths papers). S5 have done less well but in keeping with their previous results. S6 good results.

Capital Investment- for the upgrading of the school fabric particularly roofing and windows and doors to make the building wind and weather tight. It is hoped that there will be refurbishment of the Learning Hub. Also work to improve the heating systems around the school which are highly variable in their efficiency.

Rotary- Mr Tuffery highlighted the very beneficial relationship the school has with the Rotary and recommended that the Parent Council consider corporate membership of the Rotary. Mike Duguid was able to highlight some of the activities such as the Norway exchange, the numerous competitions the Rotary runs across the year working with different age groups (Youth speaks, Young Photographer, Young Chef, Young Musician) and across the region (Youth leadership Award). He also stressed the need for support in funding these activities as those such as the S1 Activity Day and the week at Barcaple for Ukrainian young people, are expensive which puts them at risk. The Duck Race this weekend is a great fund raiser and all ducks have been sold! Mike suggested that the school have a clothing even as a fundraiser (this would count towards the UN Rights Gold Award) and mentioned a possible link to a school in Ghana as pupil led projects. Mr Tuffery emphasised that the activities are available sometimes to one Year Group and sometimes to individuals who choose to participate but they are aimed to be as inclusive as possible. Please see Rotary Proposed list of Activities attachment.

6. Treasurer's Report

Bank Account £2000:67

Draw- June Laura Moodie July Emma Harrington August Laura Moodie September Margaret Stamash
October Duncan Gordon

Rebecca said that in her introductory letter to new parents she had highlighted the Draw. There will be sign up sheets at Parents Evenings and at the P7 Open Evening. Rebecca also stated that if the number of people participating was 100 that would create a general fund and cut down on the need to fund raise. She suggested a change of name was needed and it was agreed to call the draw 'In it to Win it Monthly Draw'.

Rotary Membership- Parent Council Membership is suggested and voted on Proposed Emma Seconded Clair. It was agreed to join. Cost £125.

Funding- Kirkcudbright Development Fund has given £500 towards new teams' sport kit and has requested a publicity photo of pupils on 24th September. This has been organised with permission from the school.

Tesco Blue Chip- waiting to hear about funding.

7. Chair's Report

This was circulated in advance.

Rebecca highlighted her meeting with the Prefects and also a meeting with Mrs Curtis about the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) accreditation. She emphasised the importance of the responsibilities embedded in the accreditation out with school and was keen to encourage parents to support their children in their education mentioning the organization Connect which has resources to help parents and parent groups with subjects such as family learning, health and well being etc.

Film Night- This is to take place in November after Half term. Pupils to decide on the film Tickets £2:00. Need to sell 50 tickets to cover the cost of the film hire. This will be a pupil led event with PC support.

8. Action Plan Development

The Action Plan was circulated. It is based on the areas mentioned in the PC constitution. It is hoped that this will provide a discussion and ideas format and will be filled in as the school year progresses. It is hoped that by increasing the Draw numbers, fund raising will become less critical.

Emma stressed that fundraising was very important to provide cover for running the school minibus.

Rebecca emphasised the need for increased publicity for the work the PC does and to encourage more parent participation. Facebook and Group Call have their place but suggested that a PC website with a link from the school website, might be good option. Mr Henry has agreed to creating this link if required.

Clair said that she would be able to create a basic website domain.

ACTION Clair to investigate costs involved.

Nicky suggested a stall at KBT festival events to give the school a more visible presence.

Laura suggested a Google Form as a means of outreach to parents.

ACTION Rebecca to investigate setting up and using Google Form.

P7 Open Evening- Tuesday 15th September Laura and Joanne to attend.

9. AOB

It was proposed that Joanne McMillan would join the PC which she agreed to.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 4th November 6:00pm