

Kirkcudbright Academy Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 4th November 2025

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

Rector: Mr Tuffery Teacher Rep. Shameen Syed

Pupil Council: No representative

Parent Members: Clair Baxter Joanne McMillan

Rotary: No representative

Community Council: No representative

Zoom Unfortunately the Zoom link was unobtainable.

1. Welcome & Apologies Rebecca welcomed those present and attempts were made to link with Zoom but this was unobtainable. Apologies Laura Moodie Mike Duguid.

2. Approval of last Minutes and any matters arising

The Minutes are approved.

Matters arising -The issue of being quorate was raised by Mr Tuffery. According to the Constitution June 2024 4.17 The Parent Council requires a minimum of three Parent Members to be present for a meeting to be quorate. This needs to be amended to ensure that the three voting members present have been PVG-ed. The meeting was found to be quorate.

ACTION Laura to amend and distribute the Constitution.

3. Pupil Liaison

Although there were no members of the Pupil Council present, Rebecca has met with them and reports that they are working on organising the Film Night November 21st a showing of The Goonies. The film showing will be open to pupils and parents - only if they are accompanied by a pupil. The charge is £2 a ticket. All profit will be for the PC but there will be a cut off if not enough tickets sell to cover the cost of running the film- £100. Rebecca will organise the film rental and test the I.T. required. (DVD of the film as back up).

Clothes Drive- was well organised though possibly items were sold too cheaply. £250 was raised.

Pupil Voice meeting -was not well attended. It may need better promotion.

Christmas Fair -5th December. Stall holders are keen to hold it early in the month whilst people are still looking for Christmas gifts. Shameen asked if the PC would run a café? It was agreed to do this as a soup and sandwich option.

ACTION Shameen to email Rebecca after her next meeting with the prefects.

4. Community Liaison and Rotary

Rebecca has met with the Kirkcudbright Development Trust. They are keen to have youth representation from the school. The 16 multi use sports tops with the KBT Development trust logo will shortly be available for use.

5.Head's Report

Mr Tuffery's report focussed on the Standards and Quality Report 2024/2025 for Kirkcudbright Academy . Copies of the were distributed to those present prior to distribution to parents via the website. The report considers three main area:

- What progress did we make against last year's improvement plan?
- What do we think our strengths are?
- What do we think we need to improve?

These areas are then to be addressed in the School Improvement Plan 2025-2026 under the three headings.

- Improve the quality of Learning and Teaching in the classroom.
- Raise Attainment and Achievement.
- Build whole school improvements through our working groups.

There was further section on exam attainment which Mr Tuffery spent some time discussing. Although Mr Tuffery considers that the school is performing on par the national standard also with other schools in the area and, in some subjects, better. There remains a concern that pupils may be choosing the easier option of taking four Highers in S5 and a further Higher in S6, when for some courses the emphasis is on sitting five Highers in the same year to show commitment to the workload. This may also impact any pupils taking exams early. Mr Tuffery commented on a post Covid effect with cohorts being more difficult to predict when it comes to performance in exams, leading to some individual under achievement. Progression through the school ideally sees S2 pupils looking at subjects they may choose to do exams in, S3 making those choices, S4 sitting 7 National 5s, S5 sitting 5 Highers and S6 taking advanced Highers. S4 is seen as the most significant year.

Castle Douglas High and Dalbeattie High will be producing similar documents in this format. Mr Tuffery will be happy to answer parent queries when the document comes out.

6. Treasurer's Report

Bank Account £1378.22

Draw- November- Emma December – Karen Slatterley January – Joy Coates

Sports Kit- £500 from the KBT Development Trust has been spent on sports kit which will arrive in 2-3 weeks.

Tesco Blue Chip money- £500 was donated for being third although Rebecca and Emma may challenge that position. Rebecca has emailed Mrs Cluckie for a wish list as to how the money could be used.

Aldi Sports Fund – an application will also be made.

Expenditure 2026- It is estimated that £856 will be required for next year.

In it to win it draw- has 43 members but it is proving difficult to get more people to sign up. The draw makes £156 a year at the moment.

ACTION Emma to approach local businesses and ask them to offer support to the school in return for publicity at school run events. She will also simplify the application form for the draw.

Fundraising ideas- Soup and Sandwich at the Christmas Fair. Cheese and Wine in the Cochrane Hall?

The Rotary have proposed a Candlemas ceilidh for parents and the wider public. Emma suggested that the Rotary take the lead on this.

ACTION Rebecca to propose a meeting with the Rotary to discuss.

7. Chair's Report

This was circulated in advance. Please note this correction: the next PC meeting is Tuesday February 10th at 6:00pm in the school library and on Zoom.

8. Parent Forum Budget Consultation

The consultation is about potential cuts to the Education budget and changes to the management of schools in the area. The PC will run the event in the Drama Studio during the S1 Parent Evening. A further consultation event will take place in Kirkcudbright on 19th November before the consultation event ends on 23rd November. Mr Tuffery encouraged everyone to engage with the consultation and to focus on the issues which effect secondary education in particular. The consultation is open to everyone not just parents of pupils.

9. Action Plan

ACTION Rebecca to send out updated Action Plan

Christmas Fair and Candlemass have been covered -see above.

Pulse for Life- Emma explained that this is a campaign to get CPR taught at S1 level. Mr Tuffery replied that a lot of schools do this at senior level as greater strength is required to carry out CPR successfully. There is an accredited award available, and this is co-ordinated regionally.

Study Support- ACTION Laura will cover this at the next meeting. Mr Tuffery said that individual support with individual teachers is available. There is online support with Achieve (funded by PC) and by e-Sgoil.

ACTION PC to put this information out to parents.

Laptop -A laptop has been provided for a pupil who requires it for course work.

10. AOB

Clair has investigated costs involved with creating, developing and maintaining a PC website and it is thought that it may be too expensive.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 10th February 2026 6:00pm in the school library and on Zoom