



## **Bathgate Academy Parent Council Meeting Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 26 September 2012**

**Present:** F Kenny, G Abbot, D Nelson, Cllr Cartmill, C Evans, Y Shaw, I Meek, S Mackie, S Gilliland, S Weir, A Piwonska, J Jermonson, J Baird, A Cringan, J Bryce, A Smith, W Boyle

1. **Apologies:** Cllr McGinty, Cllr Dixon, A Whyte

2. **Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 21 March 2012**

Previous minutes discussed and agreed.

3. **Head Teacher Update**

GA began meeting by thanking Parent Council for attending and welcomed new members.

An update on current staffing situation delivered to Group. Grace Burns was welcomed as Depute Head Teacher in view of recent retirement of Mr Phil Bruce. An overview of current probationer teaching staff advised and a list of current staff with impending maternity leave also informed. It was advised that some pupil timetables will be re aligned to assist in predicted staffing requirements throughout this maternity leave absence period.

It was advised that in view of all notable indicators examination results for 2012 were the highest attained over an outlook of the previous five years. The rise in Higher examination pass rates was highlighted and it is hoped this trend continues over forthcoming sessions. In relation to Advance Higher certification it was explained that the number of passes fell short of expectations however GA confirmed that this will be reviewed and addressed accordingly. GA confirmed that faculty meetings will be held in due course to discuss in full all SQA examination results.

On the strength of recent funding GA confirmed Development Posts being made available over the forthcoming session. Study Support is one of the main focus areas for said posts and will be given consideration. It was explained that Extra Curricular activities will also be addressed when establishing Development Posts. It was highlighted the requirement to review and enhance existing sporting activities currently available. How we engage pupils and build self esteem would be addressed.

Group were advised that the Bathgate Academy Website is currently under review with a new format to be introduced in due course.

#### **Head Teacher Update : continued**

It was advised that all S1 and S2 pupils have been issued with a Learning Log the purpose of which is to encourage pupils to actively record the objectives of each lesson. From this pupils will record how the lesson was perceived and grade their individual understanding of the lesson. This exercise should develop personal responsibility with emphasis being placed on honesty on information recorded. The information detailed in Learning Logs will be presented and discussed at Parents Evenings with parental input invited and encouraged. Feedback from Teaching Staff on this exercise has to date been positive. Consideration may be made to incorporate this as a whole school exercise.

GA advised Group of a new initiative whereby pupils are invited, on a daily basis, to meet with Head Teacher for a brief informal chat. The intention of said meeting is to encourage pupils to discuss likes/dislikes and to offer suggestions for change as a way forward. Whilst the exercise is in its early stages it is being viewed as an extremely worthwhile cause.

On financial matters and available budgets GA advised that the forthcoming pupil role will have an impact on budgets over future school sessions. Changes to the school curriculum will also have an impact on how funds are distributed throughout the Authority. The impact of funding must, as a matter of course, be taken into account when considering pupil presentation for examinations. The process of mass cohort presentation will be addressed with amendments being made to not only suit individual pupil needs but to also meet the requirements of financial constraints.

#### **4. AOB**

D Nelson informed Parent Council of the use of Social Networking site Twitter as part of the Anytime, Anywhere Learning Programme. This is a pilot exercise allowing Higher Grade pupils to use Twitter as a communication tool to follow important media issues relevant to coursework material. With this programme it is intended to reiterate the educational value of Twitter and also promote the use of the Smartphone in a more productive nature. Feedback from pupils to date is positive and being considered a worthwhile venture.

#### **5. Date of next meeting : Wednesday 21 November 2012**