



## **Bathgate Academy Parent Council Meeting Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 30 January 2013**

**Present:** G Abbot, I Meek, Y Shaw, A Cringan, A Whyte, J Jeromson, K Renton, J Baird, D MacDonald, D Nelson

1. **Apologies:** Cllr McGinty, C Evans, S Weir

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

Previous minutes discussed and agreed.

3. **Head Teacher Update – G Abbot**

G Abbot discussed current staffing levels and our considerations as a way forward. After completing a forecast and establishing intentions for next session a return has been made to the Authority addressing our staffing requirements. G Abbot advised Parent Council that each year the Authority is obligated to host a specific number of Probationers who will in turn be allocated to each school. These Probationer numbers must be included in our staff count. Group were also advised that falling numbers to the school role will have an impact on future available budgets/ staffing levels.

Bathgate Academy Website and Twitter feed are both now up and running and proving to be valuable and worthwhile exercises. Group discussed briefly the possibility of Bathgate Academy Parent Council having some input into the website. Discussion left for consideration and will be addressed again at a later date.

Parent Council members were advised that Bathgate Academy Anywhere Anytime Learning (AAL) Responsible Use Policy has been agreed by our Working Group and is now in force. Pupils now have the option to enhance learning opportunities using mobile devices in the classroom. This facility will enable access to websites offering teaching and learning benefits to all parties involved and at the same time, emphasis will be made on how technology can be used in a safe and appropriate manner.

In continuation of recent information relating pupil presentation at forthcoming exam period G Abbot updated Parent Council on intentions. In order to move away from mass cohort presentation a number of pupils have now been identified and confirmed as being exempt from certain examinations. These individuals were identified as having received a credit pass at a Standard Grade Level and were working towards attaining the Intermediate 2 Grade. It was agreed that it would be more beneficial for these pupils to be exempt from the Intermediate 2 examination this session and commence working towards the Higher Grade. Strategies are now in place to ensure said individuals will receive valuable, pro active learning for the remainder of this session whilst awaiting the start of the Higher curriculum. G Abbot confirmed that the Exemption Policy will be an ongoing consideration over the forthcoming sessions offering pupils a more individualised learning journey.

A copy of the S3 Course Choice Booklet was distributed to Parent Council members for perusal. Information was relayed in respect of pupil options as a way forward and an explanation of course contents delivered.

It was advised that work is currently ongoing in relation Bathgate Academy Homework Policy. A decision was made to review and enhance existing policies ensuring that the purpose and expectations of homework is clearly enforced to all parties involved. Staff are currently reviewing the principles of effective homework with a final version of Homework Policy to be issued shortly.

The electronic profiling tool Didbook is now in operation within the school and being delivered to S1 and S2 pupils in PSE lessons. Didbook allows pupils the opportunity to develop and maintain a personal profile with facilities to record progress both educational and out with school. The use of Didbook in other schools within the Authority is showing to be a worthwhile development tool offering a facility to enhance and record the learning journey.

G Abbot confirmed to Parent Council that a draft copy of SQA Study Leave dates is currently under review and to be issued in due course.

#### **4. AOB –**

Focus was made to the role of the current Parent Council and discussions ensued as to how this role could develop and progress as a way forward. It was suggested that the Parent Council could concentrate on certain subject areas and incorporate these topics to the regular Parent Council meetings. Group to give consideration and review again in due course.

#### **5. Date of next meeting - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013.**