



Bathgate Academy Parent Council Meeting Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 13 March 2013

Present: G Abbot, I Meek, Y Shaw, J Baird, J Jeromson, K Renton, S Weir, Cllr J McGinty, Cllr W Boyle, Cllr H Cartmill, A Smith

1. **Apologies:** C Evans, A Cringan, D McDonald, D Nelson

2. **Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 30 January 2013**

G Abbot confirmed that the Anywhere Anytime Learning facility (AAL) is now up and running offering staff and pupils further access to websites to enhance the teaching and learning journey.

It was confirmed by G Abbot that discussions were held to review staffing levels and in particular our intentions as a way forward in matters relating to current probationary staff and the forthcoming interview process to be undertaken. Parent Council will be advised as and when information is available

3. **G Burns – Depute Head Teacher – Guidance/Pupil Support Presentation**

G Burns delivered a presentation to Group highlighting the forthcoming logistical changes to our Guidance and Pupil Support structure. It was reiterated that offering pupils a targeted support system whereby they will have specific individualised assistance is paramount. This new system will ensure the continuity of pastoral care and allow pupils regular access to Support Staff. The new Support framework highlights which members of staff will take ownership of lower level behavioural issues and how serious breaches of conduct will be dealt with. The new Structure also gives address to the work undertaken by Partner Agencies for example, Community Police, Childrens and Young People Team and More Choices More Chances which offers vocational learning opportunities. Some of these said Agencies will now be located within Bathgate Academy. The Learning Centre area to be developed within the School will offer a supportive and motivating learning environment to all parties involved. A timeline for forthcoming restructure delivered to Parent Council by G Burns.

Group were advised by G Burns that the current Anti Bullying Policy is under review and as part of this review process a Bullying Survey has been established for both pupil and parent completion. Further information is available on the Bathgate Academy website.

4. Head Teacher Update

G Abbot informed Parent Council that the pupil SQA Exam study leave period is due to commence. It was advised that pupils are notably working hard and are on task. Study Support classes have been initiated to offer pupils additional support.

Bathgate Academy is to hold a Merit Ceremony for our junior pupils to recognise positive work ethics. The event aims to promote and encourage pupil attainment. Further information will be delivered accordingly.

“All Together Now” the suspended timetable event is scheduled for 20th May-24th May. Pupils will participate in a variety of curricular based activities offering the opportunity to experience different types of learning some of which may not always be possible following the regular timetable. The Session culminates in educational excursions outwith Bathgate Academy on Friday 24th May.

5. Homework Policy

A status update on the Bathgate Academy Homework Policy delivered to Parent Council members. The rationale of said Policy explained with principles of planning and delivering effective homework highlighted. Each faculty has made a contribution to the Homework Policy ensuring a clear and concise overview from each subject area and allowing similar formats/guidelines throughout the School. The Homework Policy will be available for address on the Bathgate Academy website.

6. Prelim Statistics

In response to recent pupil prelim exam results G Abbot reiterated that pupils are currently on track to attain required standards at forthcoming SQA examinations. Teaching staff have noted no major cause for concern and that the overall aim as a way forward is to focus on the May examination period.

7. AOB

G Abbot confirmed that no feedback has been received as yet on the recent West Lothian Validated Self Evaluation exercise. Parent Council will be advised on the overall report once received.

Discussions ensued as to the format of future Parent Council meetings. G Abbot welcomed any suggestions for future agenda items. Group asked to consider presentations from core subject areas, tours of individual faculties and deliveries from groups such as Fairtrade and Rights Respecting Schools.

8. Date of next Meeting – Wednesday 15th May 2013