



## **Bathgate Academy Parent Council Meeting Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 19 March 2014**

**Present:** G Abbot, I Meek, D Nelson, K Renton, A Whyte, J Jeromson, Y Shaw, J Baird, J Harkins, Cllr McGinty, V Meek, C McLay

1. **Apologies:** L Bell, K Smillie, J Bryce, D MacDonald, J Smillie, A Cringan

### **2. Minutes of Meeting held Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014**

In response to previous conversations highlighting the requirement for funding to aid additional accommodation requirements within the school a Regeneration Funding application is an ongoing matter for address with I Meek, Y Shaw & G Abbot offering consideration. Further information will be relayed to Parent Council as and when available.

After recent Education Executive discussions relating to future of Easter Holiday timelines I Meek confirmed that the required return was made to the Authority advising the views of Bathgate Academy Parent Council. Any outcome on related topic will be offered to Parent Council where applicable.

G Abbot offered a further insight into the parental feedback tool utilised at recent Parents Evenings. An evaluation of the questions raised for parental comment was relayed to Parent Council for information.

### **3. Head Teachers Update – G Abbot**

G Abbot informed Parent Council of the imminent HMIE visit to Bathgate Academy. Said Curriculum Impact Review Exercise will review how Bathgate Academy is progressing in relation Curriculum for Excellence guidelines in Literacy. Review date is scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014. All relevant feedback to be relayed to Parent Council accordingly.

After a recent SQA course launch at Bathgate Academy, G Abbot informed Parent Council on the success of said event. The launch of the National 5 Skills for Work course was deemed extremely successful by all parties involved. Council Representatives and Education Ministers praised both Bathgate Academy staff and pupils for their efforts and commitment to course launch.

Bathgate Academy pupils recently attended a UN debate at George Watsons College in Edinburgh. The event offered world wide participation and was greatly received by all parties involved. Staff member Mr D Nelson was offered thanks for his part in arranging said opportunity for Bathgate Academy pupils. It was agreed that overall, this event was viewed to be an extremely worthwhile and beneficial project for the pupils in attendance.

In order to maintain health promotion throughout Bathgate Academy a decision has been made and agreed with local retailers ensuring that high energy drinks are not sold to Bathgate Academy pupils. The impact high performance energy drinks have on pupils and as a result, on teaching and learning throughout the school was explained to Parent Council to emphasise reasons for decision for change.

## **Head Teachers Update – continued**

G Abbot informed Group that arrangements have been made to offer pupils Easter revision classes. Lunch break and after school revision sessions are also available. Further information is available on the Bathgate Academy website and Twitter feeds.

In relation to the current Pupil Council format, it has been noted that this years Pupil Council has not had the same profile as previous years. With an aim to hopefully improve the profile and role of pupils in the Bathgate Academy decision making process G Abbot advised that as a school, we are looking at various models already underway in other schools and observe how they organise pupil voice opportunities. This consideration will form part of the Bathgate Academy improvement plan for next year. With a view to strengthening links between both Pupil and Parent Councils Head Boy Calvin McLay and Head Girl Victoria Meek attended Parent Council meeting. It is hoped that pupil representation can be a regular occurrence at Parent Council gatherings.

G Abbot advised that an Authority based decision has been made to relocate the Confucius learning facilities from Bathgate Academy to a central hub at James Young High School. Pupils will still have the opportunity to study Mandarin however this will be undertaken within the new location. Relocation plans are still at an early stage with further information to be delivered where appropriate

### **4. Parental Contribution**

With aims to adopt a parental contribution scheme I Meek updated Group on current stance. The recent parent evenings offered Parent Council the opportunity to deliver said consideration to parents for response. It was noted that overall, parents gave a positive perception of exercise with a high number of the parents questioned welcoming the exercise. Group moved on to discuss the logistics of adopting said scheme detailing banking requirements, how funds should be managed and how funds should be allocated to school as points for consideration. I Meek to liaise with Business Support Manager and discuss said topics for address. This matter will be given continued address with all Parent Council members welcomed to offer opinion.

### **5. AOB**

Parent Council members were advised of the recent grant allocated to Bathgate Academy to aid forthcoming twinning visit. Pupils from France will be visiting the School on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March and will be involved in a variety of events with a scheduled visit to the Falkirk Wheel arranged to conclude the visit.

### **6. Date of next Meeting – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2014**