



## **Bathgate Academy Parent Council Meeting Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 13 May 2015**

**Present:** G Abbot, I Meek, D Nelson, J Baird, L Bell, J Harkins, K Smillie, M Primrose, Cllr H Cartmill

1. **Apologies:** Cllr J McGinty, K Renton, E Stewart, D MacDonald, Y Shaw

2. **Minutes of Meeting held Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

Preparations pertaining to forthcoming Bathgate Academy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary are still ongoing. GA confirmed that further information will be offered to Parent Council as and when available. Cllr H Cartmill noted interest in being involved in said arrangements/ celebrations.

3. **Head Teacher Update – G Abbot**

GA confirmed that in light of the recent interview process 3 PTC positions have been fulfilled. Sarah Moffat is confirmed as PTC in Science and CDT having previously carried out said duties on an acting basis. Ms Kathryn Oliver will join Bathgate Academy as PTC for English and Modern Languages and Dr Alan Lawson, who is also new to the School, will commence responsibilities of PTC in Maths, Computing and Business Education. Official start dates for the new members of staff are currently being negotiated.

The interview process for a new Head of House is to commence shortly. S Mackinnon currently Head of Simpson House will be leaving at the end of this session. Interview candidates will initially attend a long leet interview and if successful move on to the short leet stage. It was further explained that as with previous interviewing processes a panel of staff and pupils will be involved in the decision making process.

The appointment of a French/Spanish teacher is under negotiation with the interview process imminent. Further information will be relayed as and when available.

GA confirmed that 4 probationer teachers will join Bathgate Academy next session in RME, Biology, PE and History.

Parent Council were advised that the new academic year commenced Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May. On the whole, a smooth transition was noted with minor glitches identified and rectified accordingly. It was advised that pupils having noted interest in travelling out with Bathgate Academy to study specific subjects will have their intentions confirmed once neighbouring schools have detailed available courses. Moving on from this, discussions ensued as to the perceptions of pupils as they move from the BGE curriculum to the National Qualification coursing with the notable increase in the number of pupil assessments being highlighted. G Abbot confirmed that the assessment process within the National curriculum has been identified as a matter for consideration as a way forward. It was further suggested by G Abbot that at the outset of S4 pupils will be given a clear indication of course expectations to aid the transition from Broad General Education to Senior Phase.

The Bathgate Academy Senior Girls Football team have qualified to play in the Scottish Cup Final. Provisional dates are set for either 22<sup>nd</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> May with the venue also to be confirmed in due course.

To run in conjunction with the efforts of the Friends of Chernobyl Charity, Bathgate Academy will host Chernobyl children on 25<sup>th</sup> May. Previous visits have shown to be extremely worthwhile for the children involved.

#### 4. **AOB**

In response to recent Consultation of Admission Arrangements for Specialist Provision, I Meek advised that findings on said Consultation are now available online for information  
<http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/admission-arrangements-report>

Cllr Cartmill advised that after ongoing discussions with the Roads Department the recently reported traffic light sequencing errors and backlog of traffic from Boghall Drive and Edinburgh Road should now be fully resolved.

With a view to promoting school uniform expectations from August 2015 G Abbot informed Parent Council that a whole school briefing will be issued in due course.

With this Parent Council meeting being the last of the session J Baird took time to offer thanks to staff for their efforts over this academic year.

D Nelson informed Group of his intention to step down from his involvement in Parent Council to which his past contributions was duly appreciated.

#### 5. **Date of next Meeting** – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015 - AGM