

Bathgate Academy Parent Council

Chair's Annual Report 2017/18

It has been a busy year for our Parent Council, working closely with the school, teachers and pupils and it has been a real privilege to be part of a process that aims to improve our children's educational experience.

Working with the community, or pupils and their families helps bring everyone together and makes everyone feel that they are contributing towards their child's wellbeing, a key theme being adopted by the parent council over the 2018/19 school year.

We have undertaken benchmarking exercises with most of the local academies and this helps promote working together with other parent councils who share similar interests rather than working in isolation.

Bathgate Academy has been represented at the local parent forums run by West Lothian Council and this again is an opportunity to listen and learn about issues facing local communities from an educational perspective. At national level Bathgate Academy was represented at the Annual Parent Forum which was held in Edinburgh where parent councils, teachers across Scotland were invited to attend.

One of key themes last year was to work better together and the parent council has been involved in promoting parent/carer involvement in their child's education and a project was commissioned and undertaken by the school to involve pupils in making a promotional video 'Learning together matters' which can be shown at school assemblies or where large groups of parents are attending the school during the school year. Academic research has shown that involved parents help achieve improved child education results.

The parent council has also engaged with local business and a retail outlet to run a competition for pupils to design a Bathgate Academy parent council logo where the winner will receive a £100 voucher and a certificate of achievement.

Making contact with the parent council is seen as an opportunity for families to seek assistance in educational concerns that they may have and the parent council has set up a contact link via the school's web site. Whilst use of this functionality has been limited, its main purpose is to provide parents another forum to address school matters and one of the matters undertaken by parent council was to influence the decision making process to reduce the instrumental music service in order to achieve a fairer outcome than what was originally proposed.

I would like to thank the support provided from parents, teachers, pupils and the local community over the past 12 months which has helped improve our understanding of our children's educational requirements and identified areas of improvement which can only result in a better educational experience for our children. Without all of your help, this would not have been achievable.

Lastly I have thoroughly enjoyed the role of Chair of Bathgate Academy parent council and I am more than happy to continue as chair over the school term 2018/19.