

Bathgate Academy Parent Council

Minutes of Online Meeting

Wed 15th September 2021

Attendees:

Eileen Paxton (HT), Derek Cornwall (Chair), Cllr Harry Cartmill, Dorthe Davidson, Richmond Davies, Morag Dickie, Christine Downie, Michelle Gapinski, Gordon Hendry, Tracey Ironside, Leigh Maybury, Alison McDermott, Delyth McDonald, Carol McNicol, Ros Milligan, Hazel Mushet, Helen Neary, Lorna Nicol, Karen Smillie, Laura Spowart, Janice Earl-Summers;

Topics

1. Welcome

Derek welcomed everyone for attending, especially any new parents attending for the first time and thanked outgoing parent council members Patricia Ure and Hazel Young for their support over the years and wished their children all the best for their chosen career paths. Derek also welcomed Eileen Paxton as Interim Head Teacher to our first parent council meeting this school year.

2. Head Teacher Introduction

Eileen introduced herself and gave an update to members on her background and aspirations. Eileen took up her post from being a senior deputy head teacher at Inverlamond High School in Livingston.

3. Apologies

None received

4. Minutes & Matters arising

No matters arising and minutes were approved.

5. Chair's Update

Derek gave an update on the recent West Lothian Parent Forum (WLPF) meeting which decided they would meet three times per school year. On the agenda would be a standing item for the National Parent Forum of Scotland rep to give an update on their work and that the web site for WLPF was now live and can be viewed on the link below:

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/wl-parent-forum>

Next West Lothian Parent Forum Meeting to be held around mid January 2022

Derek advised that our generic Backup Your Child Poster had been revised and would be distributed to all schools in due course. A roll up banner specific to Bathgate Academy had also been completed following advice from Helen and Debbie on the draft. This will be available within the school for use by parent council as and when required.

Lastly Derek mentioned that the Head teacher post is currently being advertised with a closing date 26th September, Long leet interviews to take place 27th October, (post meeting update changed to 4th November) and final short leet interviews on 22nd November.

6. Head Teacher update

- a. **Returning to School update** – Eileen gave a presentation to pc members who stated that face coverings continue to be enforced within the school and that ventilation with windows and doors being left open where possible are other mitigation measures being undertaken. Reminders are being sent out by the school about pupils carrying out regular Lateral Flow Tests as well as the reporting of LFT test results. More information on the school return update can be viewed in Appendix One.

Parent's weekly updates by Eileen will continue to take place and is seen as a positive communication amongst parents with staff being updated and informed from the feedback received from parents.

- b. **2020/21 Senior School Results/Trends** – Eileen further presented the school assessment performance grades for senior school and improving trends. More information on results and trends can be viewed in Appendix One.
- c. **PEF and School Improvement Plan update** – Eileen stated that these documents were currently being worked and again more information on this can be viewed in Appendix One.

7. AOCB

On behalf of the Parent Council, Derek passed on congratulations to Dr Hyslop, a Biology teacher at our school for his recent appearance on BBC Mastermind show. Whilst Dr Hyslop answered all his entire specialised subject (Seattle Seahawks) questions correctly, he just missed out in a place in the semi-finals after the general knowledge section. Cllr Cartmill also stated that this was the second time that a teacher from Bathgate Academy had appeared on Mastermind as around 1976, Gladstone Dougall Purves a former history teacher had previously appeared on the show and reached the semi-finals. Well done to both teachers.

Derek asked Eileen if the Backup Your Child poster could be copied into the Sway Pack that is given to each P7 transitioning to S1 each year as this would provide additional information on how parents/carers can become involved in supporting their child's education.

A question was raised regarding toilets being locked within the school and Eileen stated that whilst some toilets had been locked for refurbishment, pupils were being encouraged to use the toilets whilst on their breaks and if during school subjects to use the nearest toilet.

A question was asked about the format of the parent council meeting and Derek stated that whilst this meeting was about advisory and updates, that future meetings normally have a discussion topic where parents can participate and express their views.

Derek advised that our next meeting in November would be our Annual General Meeting and he would be proposing to appoint a vice chair of the parent council.

8. Date of Next meeting

- Wednesday 10th November 2021, at 6pm (Online)

Appendix One – Head Teacher’s update presentation



Bathgate Academy
Session 2021-2022
Parent Council: 15 September 2021

Educating the whole person in a spirit of enquiry, to judge wisely, act fairly and live well.

Returning to School Update

- One way system working reasonable well
- The staged lunch and break times are positive and alleviate overcrowding and speed of serving is working well – Fusion App going well
- Mask wearing compliance is high
- Use of disposable masks is high, handing out in the morning
- Changes to Test and Protect
- SQA Exam Diet

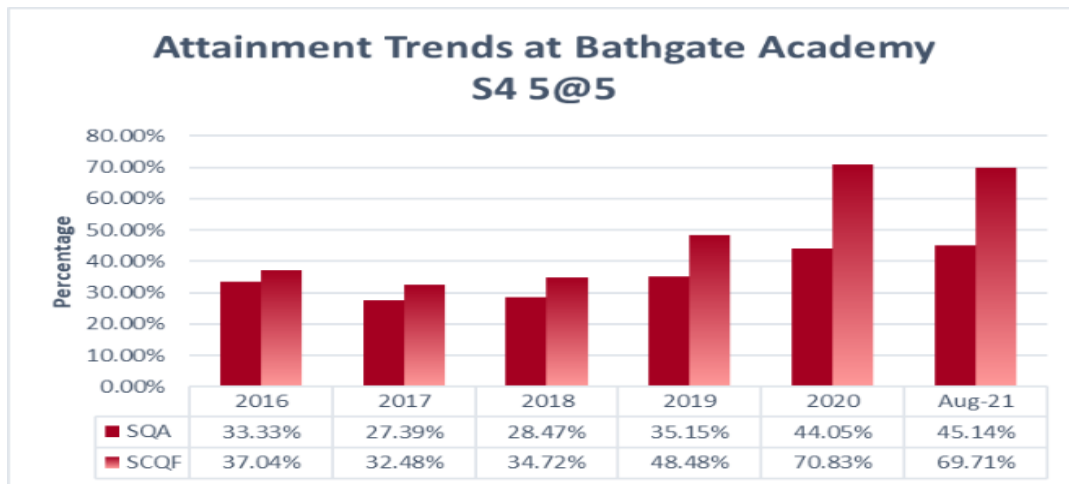
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Senior School Results and Trends

Key Measures
S4 5@5
S5 5@6
S5 3@6
S5 1@6
S6 1@7

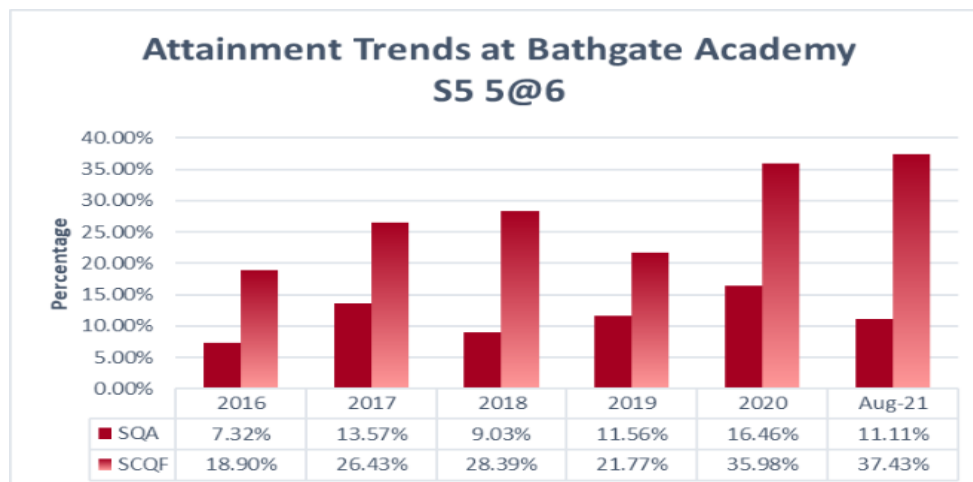
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School Results: Performance Data



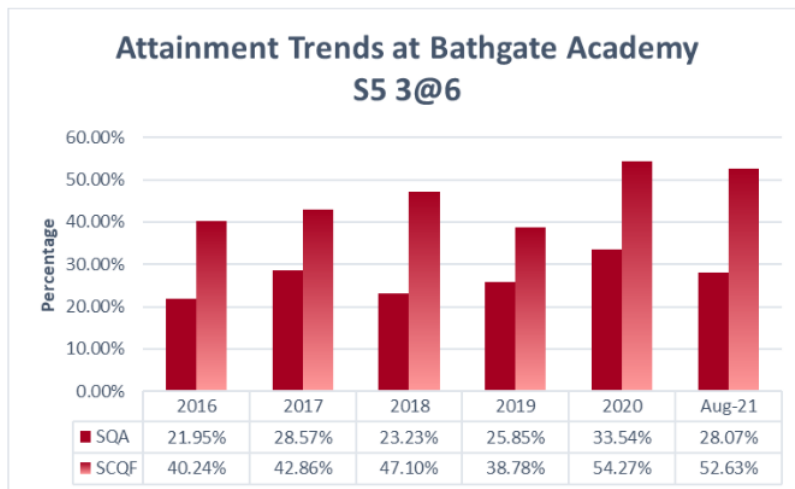
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School Results: Performance Data



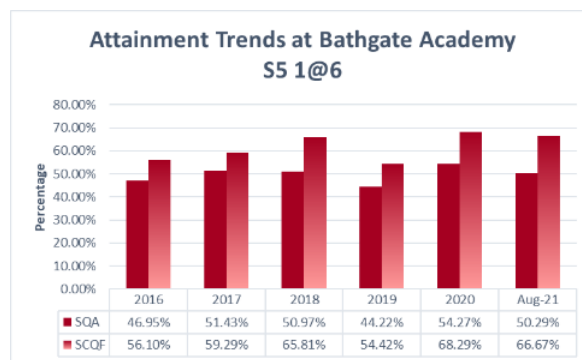
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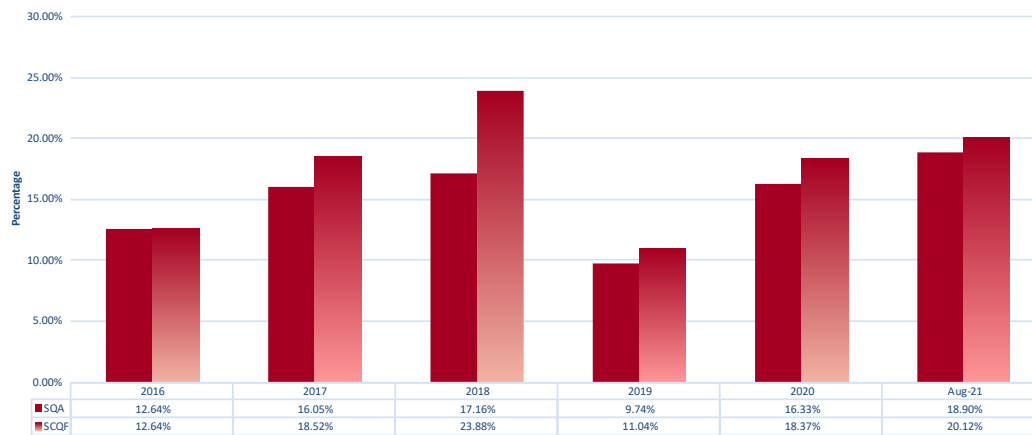
School Results: Performance Data



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School Results: Performance Data

Attainment Trends at Bathgate Academy
S6 1@7




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Draft School Improvement Plan 2021-2022


**Bathgate Academy
Improvement Priorities
2021-2022**


Building upon what we have learnt throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we aim to ensure that we support the recovery of young peoples' wellbeing and learning progress leading to positive outcomes for all our learners.

This will be achieved through prioritising the following:

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1 To ensure young peoples' wellbeing is core to our approaches to support improvements in our educational provision.
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2 To ensure raised attainment for all and utilise literacy and numeracy as core tools to achieve improvements in processes and outcomes.
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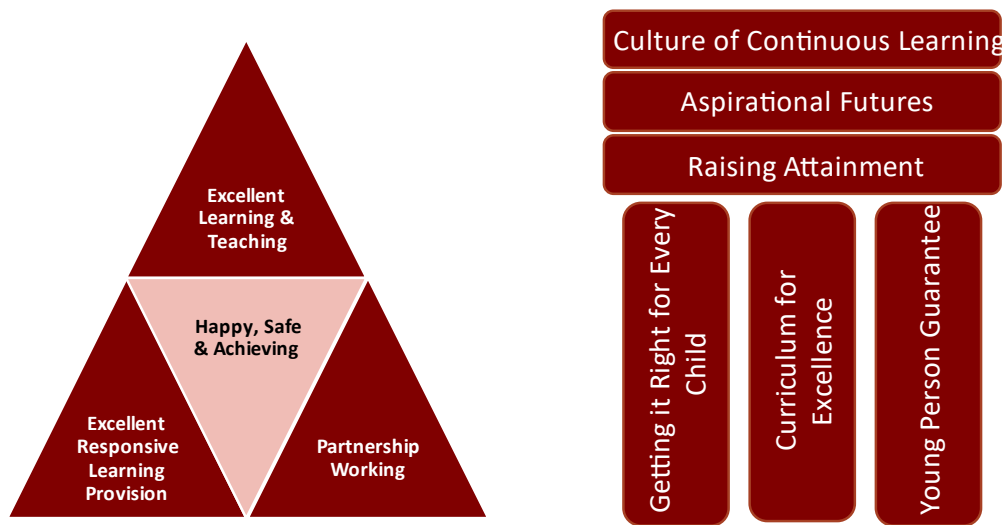
3 To ensure we have the necessary strategies to identify and interrupt poverty related gaps in attainment, particularly those widened due to Covid-19.
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4 To ensure employability skills and learning plans relate to aspirational future pathways.

Education the whole person in a spirit of enquiry, to judge wisely, act fairly and live well

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Overview



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End of Presentation.