



Bathgate Academy Parent Council

Minutes of Online Meeting

Wed 10th November 2021

Attendees:

Eileen Paxton (HT), Sarah Moffatt (DHT), Derek Cornwall (Chair), Cllr Harry Cartmill, Richmond Davies, Morag Dickie, Michelle Gapinski, Susan Griffin, Delyth McDonald, Ros Milligan, Helen Neary, Laura Spowart;

Topics

1. Apologies

Dorthe Davidson, Tracey Ironside, Alison McDermott, Cllr John McGinty, Carol McNicol, Hazel Mushet, Lorna Nicol, Janice Earl-Summers,

2. Minutes & Matters arising

Derek to combine pdf files for both September and November minutes and apply to parent council web site. Minutes were then approved.

3. Chair's Update

Derek provided an update on the current Head Teacher recruitment process. 18 applications were received, long leet consisted of 7 over 4th November and 2 were selected to go to short leet, with interviews being held on 22nd November 2021.

4. Chair's Annual Report and re-election

Derek presented the Parent Council Annual report for school year 2020/21, which can be seen in Appendix One.

Derek was also duly re-elected as Chair of the Parent Council for school term 2021/22.

a) Election of Vice Chairperson Parent Council

Anyone interested in the post of Vice Chair of the Parent Council are to email Derek within the next two weeks, closing date set as Wednesday 24th November 21. If no nominations are received, Derek will ask the wider parent forum via the school app for any expressions of interest.

5. Head Teacher update

- a. **SQA School Exam arrangements update** – Eileen gave a presentation to PC members and more information can be read on Appendix Two.
- b. **Senior School Progress reporting update and Timescales** – Eileen gave PC members and update on this, and more information can be read on Appendix Two.
- c. **Bathgate Academy Parliament update** – Sarah gave an update on the this to members and Derek agreed to be the main contact with the school to co-ordinate a response back from Parents on Social Media guidance. More information on this can be obtained within Appendix Two.

6. School Uniform – (Discussion Topic)

To raise the uniform standards within the school, Eileen provided information on the recent circulation to parents about pupils wearing school uniform and that recently the school had been concentrating on pupils wearing shirts and ties within the school.

Eileen advised that the wearing of a school uniform makes pupils more identifiable, promotes safety and provides better security within the school. Eileen also recognised that elements of the school uniform needs refreshing and that a consultation with parents, pupils, and staff was required to update school uniform policy. Eileen circulated school uniform guidance of other secondary schools for information and parent council members had a discussion around this and advised that sensory options and affordability should be included in any future uniform criteria.

Eileen to provide feedback at our January meeting on outcomes of uniform discussions with pupils and staff before any policy changes takes place within the school. Parents agreed that the wearing of school uniform was an important aspect within the school environment and allowed pupils to prepare for transition into work and develop an increased awareness of professional working standards.

7. AOCB

Derek asked Eileen if the school app dates section could be populated with items from the school timetable as currently the only dates mentioned here for the school year was the parent council meetings.

8. Date of Next meeting

- Wednesday 12th January 2022, at 6pm (Online)

Appendix One – Parent Council Annual Report 2020/21



BathgateAcademyParentCouncil Chair's

Annual Report2020/21

What another extraordinary school year we have come through. Teachers, pupils, parents and staff had to show extreme resilience in meeting the demands of the SQA's alternative certification model for senior school exam diet for the 2021 assessments, coupled with yet another lockdown period where pupils, parents and teachers were remote learning.

The weekly updates from our Head Teacher throughout the year kept parent/carers informed about school events and progress towards a full pupil return to school.

We also had to say goodbye to our head teacher Grant Abbot who for ten years had made many improvements to the school under his headship. Grant took up a new post as Head Teacher at Linlithgow Academy and we wish him well in all his future endeavours.

Subsequently, Eileen Paxton, Senior Depute Head Teacher at Inveralmond High School was selected by the Local Authority and took over as Acting Head Teacher with effect from the start of the new school term in August 2021.

This year we refreshed our Backup Your Child poster that will be issued to all West Lothian schools and next year we will refresh our Parent Involvement Matters Video with help from the school, pupils and parents as this was created in 2018.

Our Parent Council will also be involved in the selection process of a permanent Head Teacher post with hopefully an appointment being made on 22 November 2021.

We will continue as a parent council to review current guidelines around covid-19 and its implications to our pupils, teachers, and school.

I would like to thank the support provided from parents, teachers, pupils, and the local community over the past 12 months; with everyone working together we were able to complete another school year in these uncertain challenging times.

Lastly, I am more than happy to continue as chair over the school term 2021/2022.

Appendix Two – Headteachers Update Presentation



Bathgate Academy
Session 2021-2022
Parent Council
10 November 2021



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

SQA School Exam Arrangements Update

National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher assessments 2021 -22

Scenarios

1. Current public health advice: SQA exam diet with modifications, as published
2. Increased levels of disruption: SQA exam diet with modifications(as above) + additional measures
3. Public health advice leads to SQA exams being cancelled: teachers and lecturers determine provisional results

Exam Timetable:

https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/nq-2022-exam-timetable.pdf

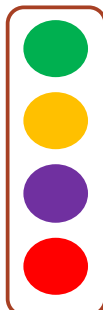
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Tracking, Monitoring & Reporting Key Dates

Year Group	Window Opens	Window Closes	Tracking Information	Tracking Issued to parents
Senior Phase			Snapshot Report: colour code pupil engagement/homework/behaviour	17 th Sept 2021
S1-S3			Snapshot Report: colour code pupil engagement/homework/behaviour	8 th Oct 2021
Senior Phase			Progress Report: Level of study, Status, Strengths & Developments	19 th Nov 2021
S1 Parents Evening - 25 Nov 2021				
S4-S6 Prelims - 29 Nov 2021 - 17 Dec 2021				
Senior Phase			Progress Report: Level of study, Status, Strengths & Developments, Prelim Result	21 st January 2022
S4-S6 Parents Evening - 27 Jan 2022				
S3 Progress Report			Progress Report: Level, Status, Strengths & Developments	18 Feb 2022
S2 Parents Evening - 10 Feb 2022				
S3 Parents Evening - 24 Feb 2022				
Senior Phase			Progress Report: Level of study, Status, Strengths & Developments	11 Mar 2022
S4-S6 Parents Evening - 17 Mar 2022				
S2 Progress Report			Progress Report: Level, Status, Strengths & Developments	1 Apr 2022
S1 Progress Report			Progress Report: Level, Status, Strengths & Developments	29 Apr 2022

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Progress tracking reports: November 2021 and March 2022



- Student should pass and is performing at their ability and beyond
- Student should pass however is capable of performing better than current level
- Student may achieve a Don on the basis of current performance
- Student will not pass on the basis of current performance

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Prelim TT & Process

Thursday Assembly 11/11/2021 - 8.45am

- Teachers will be posting prelim dates from Thursday
- Pupil focus: studysupport resources
 - S4 in English
 - S5/S6 in SCQF Classes
- Create personal prelim plan

Parents on Friday Communication

- Study Support Sway
- Prelim TT
- Study Support Overview (advertised on Subject teams/bulletin)

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Assisted Arrangements

In class, staff identify assessment arrangements which support the young person to evidence their knowledge and understanding.

The most common examples include reading text, scribing, use of ICT, extra time, separate accommodation, coloured exam papers and use of a bilingual dictionary.

We are endeavouring to increase the use of digital readers and digital answer books this year. The purpose of this is to increase independence in young people and build lifelong skills. In addition, this facilitates better continuity for support across school such as in class support and paired reading.

We collate assessment arrangements in order to plan for assessment periods such as prelims or SQA exam diet

Prior to prelims, pupils receive details of their assessment arrangements and any alternative rooms/times.

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Bathgate Academy Parliament



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Discussion Topic: School Uniform



	Bathgate Academy	Broxburn Academy	Deans CHS	ICHS	Linlithgow Academy	West Calder
<p>skirt or trousers (for leggings/jeans)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plain white or black shirt School tie Black Blazer Plain black shoes/plain black trainers Plain black jumper or cardigan if desired <p>Students should also note that hooded tops, hats or caps, scarves, jeans, leggings, jogging bottoms or training shoes with visible logos or white soles should not be worn in school.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black blazer White or black shirt and school tie White blouse and school tie Black V Neck Jersey or Cardigan Black trousers Black trousers or black skirt Black footwear S5 and S6 wear braided blazers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deans jumper/tank-top or plain black jumper/cardigan. Plain black school trousers or skirt. Black school shorts or black chino type shorts (not sport or denim). Tights should be black or neutral. White shirt (short or long sleeved). 31-4 junior tie. 35-6 senior tie. Black shoes (must be all black - no coloured logos, laces, etc). 34-36 black school blazer (optional). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White or black shirt and school tie White blouse and school tie Black formal trousers, skirt, jeans, formal shorts Black shoes, boots, trainers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White / black shirt Black or dark grey trousers/skirt (preferably not black jeans) School tie Solid Black shoes Black jumper /cardigan (plain or with school logo) 	<p>White shirt School tie Black trousers/skirt/leggings/jeggings School jumper Blazer is optional</p> <p>*Additional info - Black leggings and jeggings are acceptable school wear. Please ensure leggings are of a reasonable thickness.</p>
		The wearing of denim, leggings without a skirt, or tracksuit trousers/joggers will not be permitted.		No hoodies, logo jumpers, leggings, sports shorts, jogging bottoms, no nonblack footwear		

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End of Presentation.