



Bathgate Academy Parent Council

Minutes of Online Meeting

Wed 12th May 2021

Attendees:

Grant Abbot (HT), Grace Burns (DHT), John Fleming (DHT), Derek Cornwall (Chair), Dorthe Davidson, Richmond Davies, Morag Dickie, Clare Dignall, Gillian Greenwell, Gordon Hendry, Leigh Maybury, Debbie McCulloch, Carol McNicol, Hazel Mushet, Helen Neary, Karen Smillie, Patricia Ure, Hazel Young

Topics

1. Apologies

Received from Michelle Gapinski, Susan Griffin, Tracey Ironside, Lisa Lumsden, Mark McCallum

2. Minutes & Matters arising

Under matters arising, Derek presented the Backup Your Child poster with the revised wording and stated that the poster would hopefully be issued next school term to all schools across West Lothian. Derek asked for a couple of members to assist him in finalising the Backup Your Child school banner currently being drafted by our designers, Derek to send out draft for comments to Helen Neary and Debbie McCulloch. No further matters and minutes were approved.

3. Chair's Update

Derek stated that West Lothian Parent Forum was working on a contact page within West Lothian Council's test web site and that a communication update would come out to all parent councils before the end of the school term.

Derek advised that he had just finished a conference call with Professor Jason Leitch, National Clinical Director of the Scottish Government as West Lothian's National Parent Forum rep and that ventilation within schools was now seen as more of a priority going forward and that the wearing of face masks for pupils would be reviewed by 7th June 2021 by the Scottish Government.

Derek mentioned that as Chair West Lothian Parent Forum he has a seat on the Forth Valley and West Lothian Regional Improvement Collaborative that involves West Lothian, Falkirk, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Councils that seeks to improve education.

4. Head Teacher update

- a. **Returning to School update** – Grant gave an update that the Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) within the school remained at a high level with over 86% of an uptake amongst pupils. 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.

Parents weekly updates by Grant 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. **Reflection on Past Year update** – Grant presented the staff feedback results on initiatives the school would like to continue with going forward. All had a positive response in favour or very much in favour of continuing with these and further details can be seen in the presentation Appendix One.
- c. **SQA/Progress Reports** – Grant and John updated members that online Progress reports would be updated on 14th May with provisional SQA teacher assessments grades up to that point in time as assessments were still ongoing within the school. Parents will be given the opportunity to submit any comments/concerns via the survey link attached to the grade update communication both on 14th May and 4th June. Further survey form and details can be seen in Appendix One.

Up to four pieces of evidence can be used to demonstrate a pupil's attainment level and Grant emphasised there was still time for pupils to increase their attainment levels before the submission date of 25th June to the SQA. Grant explained that last year it was the teacher's inferred judgement that was used to obtain grade results whereas this year the grade is based upon pupil demonstrated attainment.

SQA have advised that there are no exceptional circumstances this year and the appeals process was still being finalised and will be issued in due course.

John advised that pupils who were attending the Virtual Campus, that assessments would not be available at this time but he would contact the schools concerned to see what were the latest pupil performance updates.

Grant emphasised that holistic assessments were still being carried out within the school and then these will be subject to internal moderation checks with the final teacher SQA assessments being uploaded on Friday 4th June. These provisional grade results will again be subject to SQA moderation checks with final grades being awarded by SQA on 10th August 2021.

- d. **Positive Destinations update** – Grace gave a presentation on the school's positive destinations outcomes for pupils leaving during 2019/20 school year with 91.43% of

our school pupils achieving a positive destination. Further details on the pupil destination process can be seen in Appendix One.

- e. **Timetables/P7 Transition update** - John stated that he was working on the new academic timetables and the schedule remained on course and new timetables are due to start on 14th June 2021. John further advised that a further 229 pupils would be joining S1 next term and this would have an impact upon the school.

Grace provided to members a presentation on the P7 transition events from October 2020 to June 2021 and that work continued to ensure a smooth transition for our incoming pupils to S1. Further details of this transition journey can be seen in Appendix One.

- 5. **Proposed Parent Council Meeting Dates 2021/22** – Derek presented to members the proposed dates for next school year parent council meetings as:

Wednesday 15th September 2021, 6pm

Wednesday 10th November 2021, 6pm

Wednesday 12th January 2022, 6pm

Wednesday 9th March 2022, 6pm

Wednesday 12th May 2022, 6pm

These dates were approved by members and Derek to update our parent council web page accordingly.

- 6. **Future Agenda Items – For noting only**

- Pupil Equity Funding (September)
- School Improvement Plan (September)

These were noted by parent council members.

- 7. **AOCB**

There were no AOCB items so Derek thanked Grant, John and Grace for their presentations and updates, all of which help to reassure parents and carers during these uncertain times and thanked everyone for attending and hoped that all stayed safe and closed the meeting.

- 8. **Date of Next meeting**

- Wednesday 15th September 2021, at 6pm (Online)

Appendix One

Presentation to Parent Council Members

(Referred to by Grant, John and Grace)



Week beg	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Easter holidays	From 6th-16th April 2021 @-Sgoil will be offering a programme of live webinars covering 60+ SQA courses. Please ensure your child signs up here Pupils should balance their holiday with rest and relaxation with independent planned study. See subject TEAMS for revision resources. Access previously issued Study support guide here: https://sway.office.com/YKc8rV5eQVrYecus3ret-Link&loc=play				
19 th April	Return of all secondary learners full time. Face to face learning, teaching and assessment resumes for all Senior Phase subjects over this term.				Learners studying National Qualification (N3/N4/N5) emailed their proposed presentation levels based on current evidence. Parents receive proppcal to indicate when this has happened.
25 th April		SS: 1 day this week to complete L6 SCQF First Aid course		Online Senior Phase Parent's Evening 3.45pm - 8.45pm	
3 rd May	School holiday			INSET DAY: Senior Phase moderation of pupil evidence	
10 th May					Publication of current provisional grades on DyBook Progress for parents/carers.
17 th May					
24 th May					Conclusion of formal assessment for majority of learners.
31 st May	INSET DAY: School-based SQA moderation activities	INSET DAY: Authority SQA moderation activities	Continuation of assessment opportunities for some learners.	Finalisation of SCQF courses	Publication of current provisional grades on DyBook Progress for parents/carers.
7 th June	School holiday				School submit draft provisional results to WLC S6 last leaver date (plus those S4/S5 who are leaving).
14 th June	New academic timetable for all pupils commences for session 2021-22	concordancy teams analyse provisional results			Finalisation and go ahead to start inputting provisional results into SQA
21 st June					Provisional results must be with SQA by this date



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

Bohngate Academies
 Edinburgh, 1011 Springburn
 West Lothian EH4 1LF
 Phone: 0155 500900
 Fax: 0155 502245
 @BohngateAcademies
www.bohngateacademies.com | info@bohngate.com
 Reg'd Education: GSWD 2007

Dear parents/carers

School arrangements for submission of your child's SQA provisional results for session 2020-21

Please share this letter with your child.

All you will know the 2021 National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher exams are cancelled due to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This report by [education.scot.nhs.uk/media/1161816/2021-national-5-higher-and-advanced-higher-exams-are-cancelled-due-to-covid-19-pandemic](https://www.education.scot.nhs.uk/media/1161816/2021-national-5-higher-and-advanced-higher-exams-are-cancelled-due-to-covid-19-pandemic) is being used to decide National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher results. Teachers will use identified assessments your child has completed or will complete as evidence to decide what their provisional results should be. This is referred to as using **demonstrated attainment**.

Your child can prepare for next term by participating in the [national study support](https://www.education.scot.nhs.uk/media/1161816/2021-national-5-higher-and-advanced-higher-exams-are-cancelled-due-to-covid-19-pandemic) offer over Easter which we strongly encourage all pupils to sign up for. Resources and links will also be uploaded on subject TEAMS accounts for pupils to engage in independent study over the holiday period. This school publication may help your child balance their time between work and relaxation during the holiday. <https://www.education.scot.nhs.uk/media/1161816/2021-national-5-higher-and-advanced-higher-exams-are-cancelled-due-to-covid-19-pandemic>

Next term is going to be challenging and we will do everything we can to support your child, with support for wellbeing a significant priority. School staff will be working extremely hard and we need your child to also fully engage. It is therefore vital your child ensures any submitted assessment evidence is their best work so they receive the SQA grades they deserve.

More details on our school arrangements are as follows:

- Our school principles and assessment approach

We are ensuring our process for the collection and submission of SQA provisional results is underpinned by the following:

- Fairness and equity for all learners
- Health and wellbeing of learners and staff
- Robustness and reliability of assessment judgements

Senior Phase Tracking Report: parent/carer feedback form: May 14th

Feedback forms will be emailed to you. A progress tracking report for each SQA subject your child is taking is generated for this assessment year.

Teachers are gathering regular pieces of assessment evidence about your child's knowledge, skills and understanding to inform their SQA provisional results. We are asking you to complete the feedback form to complete the feedback loop and to give us the best chance to inform our final results.

Please remember that the tracking report generated over the holiday period may still reflect on assessment tracking progress. We're interested about the information contained in your SQA subject report to identify which results the parent or carer can be involved in. <https://www.education.scot.nhs.uk/media/1161816/2021-national-5-higher-and-advanced-higher-exams-are-cancelled-due-to-covid-19-pandemic>

Tracking report grades are subject to ongoing moderation activities on school always for moderation by the SQA. Please check the final date about the tracking report and the tracking report when they have been updated. We will update the final date when we have the final date for the tracking report about a provisional grade's national level or level will go back to your school.

1. Parent's name *

2. My child's name *

3. Child's best grade *

4. If required, what is the best number to call you on? *

5. Which subject's tracking report are you wish to comment on (check and tick subject's options for commenting on another subject on the 'Track' button) *

6. Subject level *

7. My child's teacher for this subject is *

8. Any other comments relating to this subject tracking report is:

9. Do you wish to make comment on another subject tracking report? *

Latest SQA Update

- **Disruption to learning**
- Schools will continue to make use of the full flexibility in the SQA Alternative Certification Model to ensure that there is maximum opportunity for learners to undertake the required learning and be given the best chance to succeed in their course assessments
- Results this session for learners will be based on a range of evidence gathered over time based on SQA subject specific guidance. For some, this may include evidence gathered prior to the period of remote learning. The range of evidence that learners' results are based on may vary between candidates
- To ensure fairness for learners who have been unduly disadvantaged by severe disruption to learning and teaching and therefore unable to complete their assessment evidence in time for the 25th June submission date, there will be the option for schools to submit results by 3rd September 2021. This contingency arrangement would apply only where a learner's extended absence has reduced their ability to produce all the necessary evidence and where no alternative arrangement has been possible. It would not apply where a learner wished to attempt to improve on existing evidence or to take advantage of an extended period of preparation. Further guidance will be issued in due course by SQA regarding this. SQA anticipates that the number of learners needing to utilise this contingency will be very small

Maintaining the Confidentiality of Secure Assessment Materials

You may be aware of some concerns being reported in the media regarding the security of assessments being used in schools across Scotland. SQA has reminded centres this week of the importance of maintaining the confidentiality of assessment materials being used to determine provisional results. The SQA advice has been followed by the school throughout this session.

P7 Transition 2021

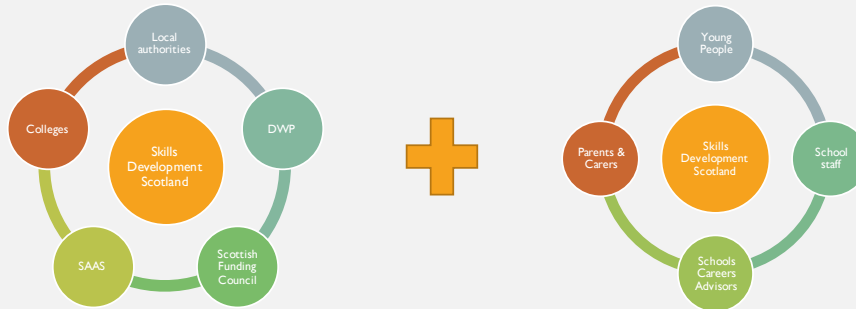
Transition events

October	Virtual Open Evening
January	Online 'Roadshows' for parents and carers S6 STEM Ambassadors intro to STEM subjects
February	Meet the House Heads & House Captains Kitchen Chemistry with the Science department
March	Modern Languages Detective Challenge
April	Literacy with English department
May	Pringles Design Challenge with CDT Classes composed Day visits for enhanced transition pupils E bulletin for P7 parents & carers
June	Day visits for House groups?

Sharing of information & planning

SCHOOL LEAVER DESTINATIONS

HOW IS INFORMATION GATHERED ON SCHOOL LEAVER DESTINATIONS?



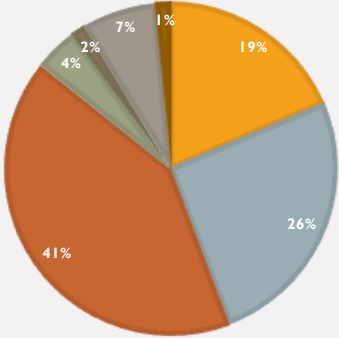
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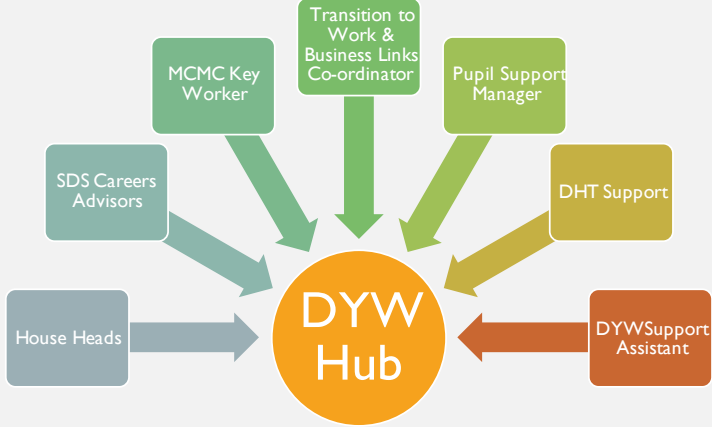
LEAVER DESTINATIONS 19/20

- Cohort 19/20 means pupils who were part of the school census (September) in session 19/20 and who left the same academic year
- Information gathered October 2020 was published February 2021
- Overall % of leavers in a positive destination from Bathgate Academy was 91.43%, West Lothian was 92.88%

■ Employed ■ Further Education ■ Higher Education
■ Training ■ Unemployed not seeking ■ Unemployed seeking
■ Voluntary



AT BATHGATE ACADEMY



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- Monthly hub meetings
- Timeline for the year; Summer Leavers, Winter Leavers, applications, referrals, data hub information
- Updates from partners
- Destinations Tracker: allows us to track plans, applications and confirmed destinations
- Post SLDR drilling down into data eg unemployed individuals

Staff reflections on year

Question	Very much in favour	In favour	neutral	Minor importance	Against the change	Prefer mixed approach
I would like to continue with online parents evenings into next session	35%	30%	20%	0%	3%	12%
Bring forward proposals for shorter 'engagement' style of reporting to parents undertaken during lockdown rather than the previous interim and full reports.	32%	46%	20%	0%	0%	3%
Consult on keeping pupils in the building at lunchtime meaning a split lunch would be maintained, esp as school numbers increase.	39%	25%	23%	0%	13%	0%
Retain and develop TEAMS platform for T&L and homework submissions. This would mean the phase out of Show My Homework.	64%	30%	6%	0%	0%	0%
Year group Assemblies via Teams have become more commonplace. Should this style of delivery continue?	38%	32%	22%	3%	2%	3%
Split interval to be removed, when permissible, meaning less supervision duties, less bells and all staff intervals can return	30%	38%	19%	2%	10%	2%
Maintain procedure of welcoming all pupils into the building each morning from 8.15am onwards.	18%	60%	21%	1%	0%	1%

End of Presentation.