

Bucksburn Academy Parent Council Meeting Wednesday 08th November 2018

Present: Malcolm Mackay, Susan Greig, Sarah Christie, Adele Ashton, Cllr Avril MacKenzie, Michael Paul, Ekatering Murray, Kelechi Kanu, Alison West, Lorraine Gerrard, Frances Scorgie, Alison Bridgeford, Jackie Sim, David Cameron, John Wheler, Lorraine Simpson, Russell Ritchie, Denise Poole, Sheree Pottinger, Lateef Akamji, Neil MacGregor, Lynn Murray, Ms Esslemont, Ms Marvin

Apologies: Louisa Davies, Stephanie Jackman, Tracey Blackie, Derek Thomson

Sarah welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked them for attending.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: These were approved by Russell and seconded by Lateef.

Head Teacher Report:

Staffing: The school is now fully staffed except for ongoing issues in Design & Technology. Twilight classes are being offered to support SQA classes and partners are being approached to deliver content for other classes.

Ms Shewan, PT Pupil Support will be leaving after successfully gaining a position as an Education Support Officer based at Marischal College. Ms Morag Hamilton was successful at interview in replacing Ms Shewan.

Mr Stephen Crichton will start in the Modern Studies department on 26th November, joining from Lochside Academy.

Ms Pauline Brown has started as an extra school support assistant in the school office.

Young Leaders of Learning: Eight students have been involved in a pilot project to develop Young Leaders of Learning (YLL) across Scotland. This week we were the first school in Scotland to be visited by pupils from two other schools (Bridge of Don and Harlaw) looking at the theme of relationships.

Peer Mentoring: For the second year running, senior pupils have been involved in a peer mentoring programme with S1 - S3 pupils. This is having a positive impact on both sets of pupils and was regarded very positively by the YLL visit.

Transition Literacy Link: This year Ms Marvin has been visiting our three primary schools on Tuesday mornings to develop a literacy link and so aid the curricular transition for pupils between P7 and S1. It is also allowing P7 pupils to get to know a member of staff at the academy well before the official transition programme starts.

S3 Leadership - Loch Eil: Twelve S3 pupils will be heading to Loch Eil Outward Bound Centre next week for a Leadership course along with pupils from other Aberdeen City schools. They will be tasked with taking forward a project in the school on their return.

Improvement Plan progress: Improving attainment - work continues on a common theme across the school - feedback. All teachers have identified a focus that they will develop over this term and beyond.

Closing the Gap: Pupil Equity Fund is being used to support some literacy work and continues to provide opportunities for pupils for trips - eg S3 trip to Loch Eil.

Health and Wellbeing: Awareness raising in the school will be launched at the in-service day on Friday 16th November. Here we will look at the supports that are already in place in the school and there will be training for all staff on Adverse Childhood experiences.

Employability and Positive Destinations: We are currently reviewing the offer for young people at course choice time, including linking in with NESCol, Dyce and further changes that we can make in school based on what pupils have asked for.

Westhill Incident: As you will be aware, a small number of pupils attended Westhill Academy on Friday 21st September during the Aberdeen City holiday weekend. They had gone there to confront a Westhill pupil following social media interactions. Fortunately, the school was aware and had alerted the police who attended, saw the Bucksburn students and urged them to leave. Mike attended at Westhill at around 2.00 pm and remained there until 4.00 pm when the school day ended, and saw no sign of trouble.

The headline in the Evening Express was unfortunate, as it bore very little resemblance to what actually happened, and Mike has asked the Aberdeen City Council communications team to speak with the Evening Express about this. All pupils were spoken to and warned of future conduct. Parents were written to about the incident.

Children and Young People's Service Award:- 2nd October: One of our pupils, Kirsty Muir in S3 was nominated for the Physical Ability Award. Kirsty has won many national and international awards for her freestyle skiing, and although she didn't win the award she is a true champion and has her eyes set on competing at the Olympics in the future. Indeed, a couple of nights later she won the Junior Sports Achiever of the Year Award at the Aberdeen Sports Village.

ASN Update: The school wanted to highlight the opportunities given to pupils across the ASN provision, including - Basketball tournament week on 9th November, Boccia tournament week beginning on 12th November, the Christmas Show, and the Christmas Fayre. There are Lunch Clubs every day of the week. There is a Duke of Edinburgh

group going to Cromdale from 14th November, and a Travel and Lifeskills Experience (TALE) group going to Muir Cottage in a couple of weeks' time.

This is all testimony to the support of staff to put these events on and to the pupils for their willingness to try new experiences.

Review of Parent Council Constitution: As not everyone present had received a copy of this, and there weren't enough copies to go round due to the high turnout at the meeting, the constitution was going to be emailed out to the Committee again, with a request that if anyone had anything they wished to be amended, to let Sarah and Adele know by the end of next week.

Review of Weapons Policy: This was discussed by the Committee - as it is quite a current policy, there were no real issues raised in respect of any changes to be made.

Careers Fair Update: Russell advised the meeting that, due to various reasons, previous meetings which were planned weren't attended by all the sub-committee, but a meeting is to be organised in the very near future to progress matters. A list has been compiled with various job sectors, and the types of employment available within them. Companies have still to be identified and approached for their input/assistance etc. A date has yet to be set for the fair, but it is anticipated it will be held in March 2019.

Funraisers Update: Denise and Sheree advised that raffle tickets have now been issued to all pupils in the school for the Christmas Fayre, which is to be held on Saturday 01st December in the school. The main raffle prize amount has been reduced from £1000 to £500 this year, as it was agreed that the £500 is still a good prize to win. The sub-committee are trying to raise the profile of the fair and are trying to encourage more pupils and their families from the mainstream school to attend, as it is mostly the pupils from the wing who support the fayre.

Sheree advised that they have received a community festive grant for the food at the fayre this year.

Treasurers Report: Denise advised that the bank balance was sitting at £66 just now - funding from Aberdeen City Council hasn't been received by Parent Councils as yet. Councillor Wheeler advised that he may be able to find out when this funding might be issued to Parent Councils.

AOCB

Strike action: Mike advised that a ballot is taking place, for teachers to accept or reject the pay offer. The Union has advised them to reject the deal. Further updates will be provided on the main news channels.

Aberdeen City Council Parent Forum Update: Sarah and Adele attended the Aberdeen City Parent Council Forum recently, and raising the profile of the National 4 qualification was discussed. As this qualification is not externally assessed, it was felt that this has led to the qualification being de-valued, and it is hoped that grading it with an A,B or C etc will re-value it.

The ACPF are looking for two representatives from each ASG at meetings, and two people from the ACPF can then sit on the Education Operational Delivery Committee.

Secondary School App: The school is still trying to increase the uptake of the app, as this is to be the main form of communication to parents and carers from the school. A group call is going to be sent reminding parents of this fact.

Careers Fair: Susan asked if there was a Careers Advisor in the school, and if they were involved in the running of the Careers Fair. Mike advised that there is a Careers Advisor in the school, but as they are employed by Skills Development Scotland, this may cause a conflict of interest.

Dates of Future Meetings:

10th January

18th February