

Kyle Academy Parent Council

Parent Council Meeting – Monday 30 October 2023

Present: M Byrne, S Cooper, M Ford, L Lauchlan, C McClung, K McHarg, E Miller, L Morrison, L Purvis, M Thomas-C, P White, L Wright.

1. Minutes of last Parent Council meeting

Minutes proposed and seconded.

2. Head Teacher's Report – M Byrne

MB provided a report on recent events. See attached.

3. School Captain's Report

LP and EM gave an update on behalf of the School Captains. This included:

- A highly successful Children in Need week of fundraising which raised a total of £5240 and created a real community feeling across the school.
- S6 Halloween disco with Belmont Academy.
- Remembrance Day wreath laying by school captains in school and at the Cenotaph, and Castlehill Church.
- S6 have been doing a leaflet drop for the Christmas Fair and decorating the dining hall and foyer.

4. Attendance

MB shared a presentation about attendance. Attendance has dropped significantly both nationally and locally since Covid. South Ayrshire Council is beginning a campaign with the strapline 'Every Learner, Every Day' and a target of average attendance of 97% for almost all learners. Some of the statistics shared included:

- 63% of Kyle pupils have attendance of 90% or over.
- 90% is the equivalent of 19 days or 4 weeks off school.
- 19% of Kyle pupils have attendance sitting between 80% and 90%.
- 85% is the equivalent of 29 days off school in a year.
- 80% is 38 days off a year.
- It takes one week to catch up on one day off.

Research shows that attendance impacts on not only progress and attainment but also social skills, friendships, feelings of belonging to the school community.

The school is working on plans to improve attendance focusing on the group sitting between 80% and 90% attendance. MB asked how the Parent Council could help with the messaging and planning for improvement.

Suggestions included:

- Sharing the current picture post-Covid and the reasons for the initiative
- Emphasising the positive benefits of good attendance at school
- Sharing some of the messages like 'one day off takes one week to catch up'

- Making the link between attainment and attendance using examples from school stats
- Exploring how pupils can be rewarded for improved attendance
- Phone calls rather than texts to build relationships

MB to work with Mr Little (Pupil Support Coordinator) and bring some ideas to the next meeting for discussion.

5. Christmas Fair

SC has been working hard to organise the Christmas Fair. She asked all parents that can help to arrive for 4.45pm when they would be allocated a job. MB to put out reminders to parents and social media posts.

Many thanks to members of the Parent Council for contributions for bottle stall, etc.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 30 January 2024