

## **Kyle Academy Parent Council**

### **Parent Council Meeting – Monday 27 February 2024**

**Present:** M Byrne, C Blackadder, S Cooper, A D'Amico, M Ford, K McHarg, L Morrison, S Robertson, M Sommerville, S Stienlet, M Thomas-C, P White, A Wilson, L Wright

**Chair:** M Thomas-C

#### **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.

SR shared additional sporting achievements from the Ayrshire Swim Team who competed in East Kilbride on 23 February.

Scottish School finalists: R Duncan 11<sup>th</sup> in 200m Backstroke (15-16); E Robertson 1<sup>st</sup> in 200m Breaststroke (17-19)

Other qualifiers: C Hart (Breaststroke); A Murdoch (Butterfly); T Stericker (Backstroke)

#### **3. Parentsportal**

M Byrne shared an update on the new app that is being rolled out across South Ayrshire secondary schools at present. It is a one-stop shop for parents and links to the school management information system, SEEMIS. Facilities it has include:

- Attendance overview per day
- Copy of child's timetable
- Copy of school calendar
- School reports
- Link to Parent Pay
- Links to Education Service information and applications such as placing requests, free meal, transport applications

The current focus will be on the annual data check information which will mean paper copies are no longer required. Parents will also be able to update personal data throughout the year eg new mobile phone number. All changes made by parents come through to admin to be approved and parents are notified when completed.

All parents have been notified and a good number have been registering. Discussion took place about some issues resulting in failed log-ins. When registering, parents must use the same name that is on the school system. This has caused problems where their MyGov Scot account has a different form of the name. The child's name must also be the same as the system. The office have been able to help those who have had problems.

#### **4. Astro Pitch**

The Parent Council have previously discussed the need for an all-purpose playing field for the school. We are the only school in South Ayrshire without access to one and the only school across the 3

Ayrshires without one. C Blackadder, PT of PE gave an update from her discussions with the local council. In summary, a new astro pitch would cost approx £1.5m and there are no plans in place for such a capital spend until at least 2035.

CB has explored a few funding streams, via SportScotland, lottery funding and SFA. However, they would all expect a contribution from ourselves / the council too. Another possibility would be a bridge and path across the river to Ayr Academy and the Riverside arena.

#### **ACTIONS**

CB to start application process for funding – applying for a variety of stream.

PC to look into partnerships with local sports clubs who may wish to share the facility.

#### **5. AOCB**

**S6 Year Books and Hoodies** – SS asked for clarification on plans for S6. MB advised that orders were being placed and plans were in place to issue these on the last day. School Captains were keen to surprise the year group.

**Ski Trip** – SS thanked the school and staff for a great ski trip. LW also noted pupils had a good time and staff were great. MB advised that the cost of the trip is prohibitively expensive and the school is looking for an alternative.

**Number of SQA courses in S4 and S5** – KM asked if the school would be revisiting its curriculum structure to allow pupils to sit more N5s in S4 like other local authorities. Most of the Parent Council were not members of the school community when the move to the 6 courses in S4 to S6 was brought in in 2016. MB outlined the rationale for the change: increased time for course delivery (at the time unit assessments were required as part of the qualifications and these were difficult to deliver in 4 periods a week); higher attainment as pupils had less courses to focus on and 5 periods in each course; timetabling S4 to S6 as one cohort provided more choice and flexibility so that more young people got their first choices. This year the school is timetabling 6 periods of Higher classes and 5 periods for National 5s. If this works and still allows flexibility and choice of subjects for pupils not going on to Highers, it would open up the possibility of revisiting our curriculum structure for S4s.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday 26 March in school**