

Kyle Academy Parent Council

Parent Council Meeting – Tuesday 30 March 2021

Sederant: M Byrne, L Harper, M Ford, S Semple, S Greig, A D’Amico, S Robertson, D Brand, S Stienlet, K Capstick, M Dorward, P Assur, R Rodger, D Houston, D Ferguson, C Marr, A Wilson, K McHarg, E Montgomery

Apologies: C Ritchie

1. Minutes of last Parent Council meeting

Minutes agreed - proposed by A D’Amico and seconded by S Robertson.

2. Head Teacher’s Report – M Byrne

MB provided a report on recent events. See attached.

3. School Captain’s Report – K Capstick

KC gave an update on progress with S6 prom and year books.

4. SQA Update

Next term the process of bringing together provisional grades for N5, Higher and AH courses will begin. SQA have shared guidance on key pieces of evidence that should be used. The key evidence that will have the highest predictive value will be assessments in May that cover at least 70% of the course. SQA have provided assessment papers that the school can choose to use. These can be chunked into smaller assessments and delivered in class. Assessment schedule has been issued and provides time between papers to consolidate learning and prepare for the next element.

Mr Gardner, SQA Coordinator, is working with PTs to put in place very clear and consistent processes about what other evidence can be used. Any supplementary evidence from other assessments such as end of topic tests or mid-topic check tests will be given a predictive value (either high, medium or low). This will be used to determine how much weighting it can be given when determining the grade. This will be completely transparent and shared with parents and pupils.

South Ayrshire Council has had a very coordinated approach to quality checking key evidence. All subject networks (that is the PTs from each school) have put consistent plans in place for the assessments they will use and how they will check that everyone is marking them to national standards. During May, SQA will also be sampling the evidence we are using and the application of national standards. It will be a random selection of courses and every school will be sampled.

Initial provisional grades will be determined for most pupils by 11 June and thereafter, quality assurance checks take place at department, school and local authority level. This includes looking at anomalies from tracking grades earlier in the year, historic trend data for courses and the spread of bands across subjects.

5. Plans for full return to school – 19 April 2021

The school is anticipating a full return of all pupils on Monday 19 April following the Easter break. This is conditional on a final check point on 6 April and the Government being confident that the virus is under control and the R level has stabilised.

All going well, the normal school timetable will resume on 19 April. The changes to the school day that have been in place since August will also resume - staggered arrivals and exits, separate intervals and lunch times. This is to minimise large groups arriving and leaving the school at the same time and gathering together at social times. Health Protection measures will include the wearing of masks in all classes, lateral flow testing. KC shared the pupil experience of taking the flow tests.

If there are any changes to our planned return as a result of an announcement on 6 April, they will be communicated to parents over the holiday period.

6. Online learning - S3 Provision

Concerns were voiced about a reduction in work for S3 and the impact of the disrupted learning on their Nat 5s next year. MB stated that online learning remained the main vehicle of delivery for S1 to S3. There has been no reduction in online learning although a few live lessons have been rescheduled or cancelled due to in-school teaching commitment. Teachers have reported a significant drop in attendance at live lessons and submission of work by S3 pupils. Reasons for this could be fatigue with remote learning and the end possibly coming into sight.

MB acknowledged that concerns about the impact of disrupted learning on NQs next year for S3 is valid. Consideration is already being given to this both at school level and nationally by SQA.

7. P7 Transition

Recent meetings with Cluster HTs and P7 teachers have taken place and planning has begun for P7 transition. A Microsoft Team has been set up and after Easter the joining code will be shared with P7 pupils by their teachers. Information and videos introducing SLT, guidance staff and depts across the school will be uploaded and there will be an 'Ask a Question' channel. This worked well last year. We are planning a virtual tour of the school and an information evening online for parents next term. P7 live sessions with English and Maths teachers have also been scheduled to take place next term.

Placing requests will be confirmed at the end of April so we are waiting until then to begin the activities as a third of the pupils come from placing requests. It is currently looking like we will be at full capacity in S1 with only 2 retained spaces left.

8. Next meeting 27 April 2021