

Kyle Academy Parent Council

Parent Council Meeting – Tuesday 25 January 2022

Sederant: M Byrne, M Ford, S Semple, S Cooper, S Robertson, R Rodger, K McHarg, L Morrison, M T-Cusick, A Masson, A Foakes, C Marr, A Wilson, P Assur, R Rodger, M Dorward, S, C. I Montgomery, S Lamont, L Sutherland, T Nixon,

Apologies: E Montgomery, A D'Amico

1. Minutes of last Parent Council meeting

Minutes were agreed proposed and seconded.

2. Head Teacher's Report – M Byrne

MB provided a report on recent events. See attached.

3. School Captain's Report

School Captains, LS and TN, gave an update on recent activities. These included, speaking at the Pathways and Options Evening, starting up the Breakfast Club and sitting their winter assessments.

4. Feedback from S3 Online Parent Evening

This took place on 13 January using the new digital platform, Parent Booking. Overall, parents and staff were very positive about the parents' night.

Parent Surveys (40 responses)

Info before hand - most found it very helpful

Booking – most found it very easy

Joining – most found this easy

Technical issues – main issue was sound problems and a few connectivity issues with certain devices (iPad).

Positives - Parents were appreciative of the opportunity to meet with teachers again. They liked the efficiency of the system, ease of booking and the way appointments kept to time. Comments included it was convenient and streamlined with no long waits.

Only issue raised was length of the appointment which a minority found too short. Comments included not long enough if there were concerns that needed to be discussed or if pupil has additional support needs.

Staff Surveys (29 responses)

Set up and logging in – most found it very easy

Time for appointments – most found it adequate

Technical issues – main issue was sound, a few experienced difficulties connecting to parents.

Positives included the tight schedule that meant they kept to time, the online booking system, and they felt the time limit made the conversations more focused.

Issues raised were the 4-minute appointments that were too short when the 20 second connection time was factored in.

S4 Parent Evening will go ahead on 1 March 2022. The school will review the time for appts (5 minutes would be better with shorter buffer). This may require beginning earlier eg 4.15pm.

S5/6 parents will be contacted to advise that if there are any concerns with progress the school will be in touch and that they should contact PTG if they wish further info or to talk to a particular teacher. This is also the case for S2 who did not get a parents' evening either.

A few parents asked if we would keep the new format when Covid restrictions are removed. The Parent Council can review this and gather views when the time comes.

5. Pupil Council – celebrating positive behaviour initiative

SL and IM attended from the Pupil Council to provide an update on their positive behaviour initiative.

- It will be a positive system where merits are gained rather than lost.
- Merits will be awarded at the end of teach term in a holistic way considering behaviour and effort across the term. This will allow pupils the chance to improve and be recognised for their improvement.
- They have surveyed pupils to find out what type of reward they would like and how parents could be informed.
- Pilot with S1 will begin after the February holiday.

The Pupil Council will share plans with all PTs at the PT meeting next week. Views sought from Parent Council about how communication about merits can be shared with parents. It was agreed that email or text would be the preference. It was suggested that an e-praise postcard would be good. Parents and pupils both agreed that the praise postcards currently used by some depts were welcome.

6. Parental Consultations

MF provided information about two surveys that are going out to parents.

- Early Learning and Childcare Survey
- Parental Involvement and Engagement survey – MB will provide links to the survey through the usual channels.

7. Health and Wellbeing Survey

Despite the negative press, SAC is going ahead with the Health and Wellbeing Survey. The results of the survey will be used by the council and the Scottish Government to understand the health and wellbeing needs of children. This will help to improve the way children's services are planned and delivered by the local authority and their partners, such as education, health and voluntary

organisations. The results do not look at children's responses on an individual basis, and any results produced will not enable an individual child to be identified.

Much of the negative press has been about the sexual health questions which are asked of S5 and S6 pupils only. The survey has been altered so that if a pupil answers the first sexual health question with no or prefers not to say then the system will automatically miss out the remaining sexual health questions.

Letters will be issued to all parents this week. The letters highlight that it is voluntary and that parents must opt in to consent if their child is under 16. They will be given ten days to do so. Children can also opt out. Once permissions have been collated, the school will schedule the online surveys which take about 30 to 40 minutes and complete the process before the Easter holidays.

MB to provide information to pupils about the survey on their year group teams.

AOCB

- **SQA Update** – no concrete information has been shared yet. SQA have plans in place to share study support materials with schools early in March if the data collected by Scottish Government suggests there has been significant disruption to learning and teaching due to Covid.
- **Text Messages** – MF asked if there is a way to send whole school texts to family groups to avoid the same text arriving several times. MB to discuss with office staff.
- **New director of Education** – Mrs L McRoberts, former HT of Kyle Academy, has been appointed.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 22 February 2022