

Kyle Academy Parent Council

Parent Council Meeting – Tuesday 22 February 2022

Sederant: M Byrne, M Ford, S Semple, S Cooper, S Robertson, R Rodger, K McHarg, M T-Cusick, C Marr, A Wilson, P McPherson, T Nixon, A D'Amico, S Steinlet, C, S.

Apologies: E Montgomery

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, PMc and TN, gave an update on recent activities. These included, Breakfast Club, helping out at Study Hall and peer support in class and the new S1 behaviour pilot that has just begun.

4. Parent Council Convenors' Meeting Update – K McHarg

KM provided an update on convenors' meeting held on 8 February. This included:

- Covid update
- Info about parental involvement survey
- SQA update on revision support materials to be released and appeals/exceptional circumstances
- National Parent Forum Scotland (NPFS) have stated that the focus will be moving from talking about covid to talking about health and wellbeing particularly mental health.
- L Mc Roberts will take up post as Director of Education on 11 April.

5. SQA 2022 Update – M Byrne

SQA recently announced measures that will be in place to support learners taking National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher exams in 2022. To take account of the disruption to learning and teaching this year due to Covid, SQA will publish revision support for learners during week beginning 7 March. This will help your child prepare for their exams. It will also be used by teachers to focus revision and exam practice on particular areas of the course.

The type of revision support will be different for each course and will depend on the modifications that SQA made at the start of the session as well as the types of questions that are in the exam.

MB has lettered all parents with information about the revision support, exceptional circumstances and appeals. More info will follow before Easter.

6. Mobile Phone and Social Media Policy – S Semple

The school is increasingly dealing with issues created by mobile phones and social media. The issue was raised by PTs who are finding the level of challenge around phones in the class very difficult.

There are school rules on mobile phone use within the Positive Behaviour Policy and the Ready, Respectful, Responsible approach. This existing guidance has been pulled to inform a new discrete policy which will be relaunched and reinforce the rules. The plan would be to introduce it fully from Easter with S1 to S3 when parents, pupils and staff have been consulted and are fully aware of the expectations and consequences.

All were fully supportive of the policy. MF suggested pupils are engaged in the reasons for the policy and the solutions and lead the implementation. This will be followed up with the Pupil Council. AD raised the issue of Smart watches. This will be considered and possible included in the policy.

The policy also outlines expectations about responsible use of social media. Social Media regularly results in relationship issues which spill over into school. The school is planning an information session for parents about what they should be aware of around social media hopefully in the summer term. This was welcomed.

7. Health Promoting Schools - Energy Drinks; Snack Van

MB asked for parent views on banning energy drinks and fizzy drinks in school. This would remove ambiguity around what has been brought as a packed lunch and reduce the impact of caffeine and high levels of sugar on pupil behaviour and attention in the afternoon. Most SAC schools have a ban on energy drinks and the campus officer has asked local shops not to sell them to pupils. The school would letter parents and use it to reinforce with pupils healthy eating messages. This will be progressed next term.

8. Covid Mitigations

Latest Covid guidelines include:

- Pupils and staff in secondary schools are no longer required to wear face coverings in classrooms. However, any young person or staff member who wishes to still wear a face covering will be fully supported.
- Face coverings will continue to be worn by secondary school pupils and all adults in indoor communal areas such as when moving around the school in corridors, office and admin areas, canteens (except when dining) and other indoor communal areas, (including staff rooms and toilets).
- Face coverings should continue to be worn by adults wherever they cannot keep physical distance with other adults and/or children and young people.
- The remaining restrictions on assemblies are now removed although we will continue to encourage physical distancing, ventilation, and the use of face coverings where appropriate.
- Transition visits can now take place with the appropriate risk assessments.
- We will continue with at least 1m physical distancing between adults and adults and children where possible.

9. AOCB

- Some issues with Parent Booking for S4 parents evening – S3 parents have been emailed. MB to follow up with clerical.
- Praise Cards have been having a positive impact on pupils and parents liked them

Next Meeting: Tuesday 29 March 2022