

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KELSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 26TH MAY 2022 IN KELSO HIGH SCHOOL



Attendance - Harriet Campbell (Chair), Leri Payne (Vice Chair), Jill Lothian (Head Teacher), Nicola Robertson, Euan Robson (Councillor), Gillian White and Elaine Webster.

Apologies - Ginny Stewart (Treasurer), Tom Weatherston (Councillor), Simon Mountford (Councillor), Rev A Rodwell, Sarah Butler, Sonya Nairn and Kirsty Banks.

Chairperson Harriet Campbell welcomed everyone to the meeting and made the introductions.

Minutes of Previous Meeting - Minutes read and approved by Leri Payne.

Matters Arising - None

Chairperson's Report

Harriet opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming, delighted to be back in school and meeting in person! Discussion took place regarding the meeting moving forward.

Careers Event - everyone was pleased to be back now that things are opening up again after such a long time.

DSM Budget Update - confirmed that 9 Secondary Parent Councils put forward a plan to SBC with a consistent approach. Harriet confirmed dialogue with SBC is more positive but still areas to be looked at.

Mental Health Support (Pupils & Staff) - what support does this school need? Meeting scheduled in 2 weeks to discuss plans, further update in due course.

Food Quality / Sustainability - positive feedback from majority of pupils but ongoing in other secondary schools. Central survey, this has to come from our young people.

Thanks to Magda Sutton for doing updates on Facebook.

DHT Lorna Changleng has been updating the KHS Facebook page daily, we hope this is reflecting.

Head Teacher's Report

Whole School Updates

Over the last few weeks we have a number of visitors within the school to work with our young people. It has been great to invite people back into the building.

Work with our Support for Learning Department: We would like to thank The Cobbles for their kindness in not only supplying the ingredients, but also the services of their fantastic professional chef Daniel Norcliffe as part of our Support for Learning Department's Senior Programme of Activities. During their recent session - Cooking with a Professional Chef Part One - some of our seniors learnt about spices and the history of spices. They then made the most delicious curries. Homemade Naan bread proved to be extremely popular too!

Social Enterprise Project: Our young people within S3 Business have achieved so much whilst working on this project that they have been selected to feature in the Social Enterprise Academy's national magazine and take part in a conference in Edinburgh in June.

S2 STEM Project: We welcomed the Army to KHS to run 'Operation Disaster Relief' with our S2 students. Students worked in groups to join the Army's Medics, Engineers and Logisticians in deploying to a remote part of the world which has been hit by a destructive earthquake. They learned how to build and operate their LEGO Mind-storm robot. They then undertook a series of engineering & logistical challenges in order to achieve their mission and deliver lifesaving humanitarian aid to the local people.

S1 Geobus visit: Our S1 students took part in a workshop on earthquakes with our visitors. This involved a lot of hand on activities including making a model of a building that would withstand an earthquake.

Weekly sailing opportunity: Our Kelso High School Sailing Club have been having fun as they develop new skills on their weekly sessions at Whiteadder Reservoir near Duns. Our thanks to Mr Borthwick from our Music Department for supporting our young people to develop their skills in sailing, paddle boarding, canoeing and kayaking.

Apple Film: We welcomed an Apple film crew from America into KHS to allow them to meet some of our young people and capture the learning that takes place with their iPads. The crew were filming across a number of school and we look forward to seeing the final film later in August.

Ideas become Things: In partnership with Abundant Borders and Eildon Housing our S1 students have been using their creative skills to produce plans for a community garden within Kelso. These are now being used to develop the space and we look forward to working with them again soon.

Inspire Learning Event: A number of staff and young people attended this event at Springwood part to showcase the work that is taking place within KHS and how we use our iPads.

SQA Update

We are reaching the end of our SQA exam diet for our senior students. Our young people have worked very hard over these last six weeks. We now await the results on Tuesday 9th August. If a young person does not achieve the result they had hoped and our SQA estimate is higher than this, the school can support the application of an Appeal.

Merit/Demerit Update

As a school, we continue to embed our system of merit and demerits. This data allows us to celebrate success or plan appropriate interventions. Although we are noticing an improvement in low level disruption we will continue to monitor.

This last week we have sent home 148 positive emails regarding 244 merits compared to 52 emails about 122 demerits.

The results of the survey will be shared however key points from the data tell us:

- As a school we need to communicate to parent/carers and young people what the system (maybe page on website).
- Remind staff not to use Other category when issuing a demerit, only use Time Out, Did not attend, Corridor Behaviour and Phone/iPad Misuse categories.
- Teachers should inform yp when they are getting a demerit or a merit and what it is for.
- Parent/carers would like more information on who issued the merit/demerit and what it is for. However this is an extremely time consuming admin task.
- Strategies for making sure yp know they have a detention and a robust system for yp who do not attend or not complete a detention.
- How we make sure the yp who always work hard etc. get merits and how we reward/recognise these pupils.

Change of Timetable

We move to our new timetable on Monday 6th June. This allows all our young people to meet new teachers and begin new courses prior to the summer holidays. It also provides the space for our young people in P7 to visit the school (21st - 23rd June). Due to the fact that we now the majority of our COVID restrictions lifted all secondary schools within SBC are moving back to have our lunchtime break at the same time. This will mean that our timetable will be split in the morning at 10.30am for our 15 minute morning break and lunch will be at 1.15pm. After lunch it will be only two periods of learning. As with all change, there are positives and negatives. We will be able to introduce more extra-curricular activities during our lunchtime and our seniors can be role models for our juniors. We appreciate that the canteen will be busy however our new grab & go ordering system allows our young people to skip any queues. We are also looking at our current seating arrangements.

HMIE Inspection

Kelso High School are welcoming a HMIE inspection team on Monday 20th, Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd June. The first day will be online followed by two days within school.

We would welcome the opportunity to arrange a parent group to meet with them over these days.

Staff Updates

- Currently advertising for:
 - English teacher
 - RMPS teacher
 - Maths teacher

- History teacher
- Restructuring our extended leadership:
 - DHT Sophie Shorthouse will be leaving KHS to take up a post in East Lothian
 - Changes with number of PTs

Discussion

Careers – engaging with pupils earlier, S3 work experience?

SQA – time for a change, stressful time, backwards system. Technical issues with digital papers, trialling on iPads.

Merits / Demerits – continuing with process, reviewing regularly, survey – results to be presented at next meeting. More communication with parents regarding the system – on website? Pupils are sometime not aware that they have been given a merit / demerit. Additional information would be helpful to parents (who / when) but this may not be possible with the setup of the current system. Looking at ways we can use this information positively.

What paperwork is used during detentions? Can this be put on website?

Some pupils are not going to detentions of their own accord and have to be taken

Robust system for non-attenders (next steps?)

There are now less pupils having to complete detentions but a core of pupils that always have detention.

How can we recognise achievement? Tangible / Rewarded? Giving merits to pupils that are on the periphery. Accumulation of merits – prize? PC to fund?

Ideas from Parent Council?

Whole year group assemblies are now able to be held, this is much more positive being able to speak to whole year groups together.

HMIE Recovery Visit – Continuity of learning / Safeguards / Health & Wellbeing

Euan Robson enquired about online learning – discuss with F James regarding experience.

Jill confirmed a hybrid of online and in school would be preferable, all online is too restrictive. What would this look like?

Jill updated meeting about a very successful trip to London for our Bee Club pupils as part of the Royal Society Project. Also 2 of our yp have been selected to go to Korea as part of a group of only 9 Ranger Scouts. Well done to all involved.

Discussion took place around choice of course – S2/S3 subject choice quite restrictive, not able to pick 3 sciences. S4/S5/S6 all timetabled together which has allowed us to offer a bigger pool of subjects to choose from. S3 Duke of Edinburgh – massive uptake for this subject and staff have to be officially trained therefore staffing issues dictate number of classes that can run.

Battlefields Trip – enquiry regarding the possibility of this trip running next session. Still awaiting a price which we think will have increased hugely due to brexit and rising fuel costs.

Working Groups – Attendance / Tracking & Monitoring / Pupil Voice (Grants/Funding)

Dyslexia – Ambassadors / Mentors

LGBTQ+

We want to hit the ground running if possible.

Treasurer's Report

Lottery Account

There is **£1,725.69** in this account as at 4th April 2022 (date of last statement).

Since then we have had a winner! Graham McElrath won £282.50 in the April draw!

Nothing is therefore carried forward to May. The prize fund in May will be approximately £95.00

There are currently 195 active lines.

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £1,443.19

Main Account

There is currently **£834.45** in this account.

We received two requests for funding:

- Mrs Cameron-Lyle submitted a bid for £30 in relation to an activities event for Pride month. This will be used to raise awareness and understanding, promote inclusion and kindness and create safe spaces. Bid discussed and approved.
- Mr Robertson submitted a bid for £150 in relation to the KHS garden, specifically the pond area. This will be used to purchase equipment to further enhance the already transformed garden. Bid discussed and approved.

See Mr Robertson about getting photos of the garden – share with school community via update and Facebook.

Leri expressed her thanks to Mr Martin for the planters used at the allotment.

Date of Next Meeting – TBC (schedule of meetings next session to be agreed and shared)

Harriet thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.