

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KELSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 26TH OCTOBER VIA ZOOM



Attendance - Leri Payne (Chair), Jill Lothian (Head Teacher), Jeanette Aitchison, Paul Graham (Inspire Team), Julie McIntosh, Nicola Robertson, Kirsty Banks, Ailie Ramage, Ian Aitchison and Harriet Campbell.

Apologies - Sonya Nairn, Pam Guthrie.

Chairperson Leri Payne welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting - Minutes from 25/09/23 were moved to next meeting (20/11/23)

Matters Arising

Chair's Report

Two meetings held with SBC, one in September and one this evening to which there were not many people in attendance. We were given a brief summary on SBC education update, focusing on attainment and wellbeing. This will continue and build on the current progress.

Respectful Relationships & Anti Bullying

All schools have certain things in place, focusing on:

- Training
- Strategies and resources
- Methods of reporting

Multiply - a new government-funded programme to help adults improve their numeracy skills. Information shared via social media and our weekly update.

Information shared regarding licensing for school events, fayres etc.

Funding / Grants available to Parent Council – Harriet is on the case, more information to follow.

Screens & Social Media Presentation from Paul Graham, Inspire Learning Team

See attached PDF copy of the presentation.

NSPCC and Help at Home both have fab resources available to help families.

If any pupils are able to access any form of social media or gaming sites via a school issued iPad please report this to the school ASAP. All sites should be barred however more pop up all the time and we need to be vigilant and keep on top of it.

Looking to introduce the ability for parents to be able to access / view / limit iPad usage between certain time e.g. 5pm to 7am.

Will look to identify a time for Paul to come and run a session for parents at KHS, suggested late November.

Paul was asked to comment on the physiological effects of phones and iPads – focus, eye strain, repetitive strain, posture. Encourage pupils to take breaks. He couldn't comment regarding EMF (electro magnetic field), no evidence one way or the other. Paul happy for Jeanette to share any information she has about this.

Educate parents around use of social media, difficult when “all their friends have it”. There is value in digital leaning however there are barriers.

Discussion around setting up a session with tables and chairs, interactive, social, talking and supporting each other, make it more positive.

Marketing materials available if required, Paul can provide.

Head Teacher's Report

Whole School Updates

Staffing Updates

- Warm welcome to our new staff
 - Louise Burn (Support for Learning Teacher)
 - Craig Rutherford (History Teacher)
 - Ellie Thomson (ANA)
 - Jennifer Mallison (ANA)
- Best wishes to the staff who have left KHS
 - Lynsey Young (Youth Worker)
- Extended Leadership Team
 - Principal Teachers of Teaching & Learning – Mrs Cairns & Miss Brown
 - Principal Teacher for Wellbeing – Mrs Curran
 - Principal Teacher for Pupil Agency – Miss Riley
- Vacancies
 - Maths - Mr Hanaway will be joining KHS week beginning 13/11
 - Youth Worker interviewed
 - 3x Pupil Support Assistant being interviewed

Focus on our S1

On 27th September, our Cluster Primary HTs complete a self-evaluation visit with a focus on S1 Transition and the experience at the start of S1. This involved a range of classroom visits and speaking with yp and staff during focus groups. Below is an outline of the feedback received.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment Feedback

Strengths:

- In the majority of classes observed relationships were positive.
- There were some very good examples of pace and challenge.
- Young people were completed tasks set.
- Digital technology used well by staff and yp.

Areas for Development:

- Some learning environments would benefit from being more appropriately challenging. Develop “thinking” through open-ended questioning.
- IDL Literacy and Numeracy content although developing requires to be more interactive.

Focus Groups

Young People: Strengths

- S1/S6 buddies great.
- Pastoral teachers and Mrs Renton all praised by pupil focus groups.
- Most teachers encouraged them and supported them.
- Liked moving around the school with multiple teachers rather than being with one teacher all year as it is in Primary.
- Feel Safe: fire drills, PSE lessons, pastoral staff checking in during lessons but also in and around the school, clubs at break/lunch/after-school

Staff: Strengths

- Information that comes from Primary was useful. Appreciated time given on INSET day to process this. Helps to establish individual needs. Discussion as teams.
- Transitions profiles were seen as positive and helpful.

Young People: Areas for Development

- Young people are stating that they are repeating material they have already covered within some subjects
- Feel Unsafe at times: name calling between peers, stairwell. Would like more staff supervising at break/lunch.
- Would like more information about clubs before starting at KHS

Staff: Areas for Development

- Would like to work with cluster on record keeping and tracking to improve consistency.

S1 Parent Information Session

We welcomed approximately 50 parents/carers on Wednesday 18th October. This was an opportunity to share updates around S1 along with an opportunity to share feedback. The presentations used can be located within our website with our new tab – Parent/Carers and S1 Folder. Feedback received will be shared within the Weekly Update.

Trips & Events

Our young people within S2 enjoyed their trip to Abbotsford House to take part in the Witch Corners event. Our English/RMPS Faculty also held an excellent National Poetry day event with guest and an evening event.

We had a successful Duke of Edinburgh expedition.

S1-S6 Reporting

During this term we will be sharing with young people and parent/carers our first round of reports. These initial reports will provide details on attainments along with statements on:

- Progress in Learning
- Being Ready to Learn
 - Arrives on time
 - Brings required equipment (including charged iPads)
 - Settles quickly to tasks
 - Phone remains out of sight
 - Respectful to others

Treasurers' Report

Lottery Account

The balance of the PC Lottery account as of 05.10.23 is £2,331.55.

Less refund to be issued to KHS for the annual Zoom subscription renewal of £143.88 as discussed at last meeting.

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £1,533.17

The next lottery draw will take place on Monday 30.10.23. The prize fund is currently sitting at £654.50.

There have been no winners since Rory Bell won £1,030.00 in March 2023.

There are currently 188 active lines. This equates to £94 into prize fund and £94 into account for funding requests.

I have spent a bit of time looking at the Lottery as there were 12 forms sitting that had been completed but for whatever reason had never been set up by parents. I contacted them all individually to see if they still wanted to be involved and have heard back from 8 of them, 1 no longer wanted to be involved and the other 7; I have either handed their forms into the respective banks or they have said they would set the SO up themselves via internet banking.

I had a look into getting the lottery form online and looked at the Jed one that Dean mentioned at the last meeting. I think that a MS Form would suit us better and I have drafted one up:

<https://forms.office.com/e/BdA82Hh9sH>

This will collate all the information required and if they have internet banking I will be able to email them a reference code and the bank information to set up or if not post a form which when returned I can deal with. Hopefully this should streamline the process!

I have been able to create a QR code for this form as well which we can have available at school events / parents' evenings etc.

Would we look to promote this outside of KHS to the wider community – Kelso Life etc?

Bank Accounts – I will need to get signatories sorted and look further into internet banking, will see what needs done and make contact with Ginny to sort.

Main Account

There is currently **£997.71** in this account (information from last report at 25.05.23 meeting).

Showbie - discussion around parents getting access codes to be able to login. Update on when work will be shared with parents.

Nicola confirmed that Dr Robertson with parental support is happy to run sessions on how to study, dates to be confirmed. Suggested that this is promoted at the S4 Parents' Evening.

Date of Next Meeting – Monday 20th November at 7.00 via Zoom.

Leri thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.