MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KELSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2025 IN PERSON

Attendance - Harriet Campbell (Chair), Leri Payne (Vice Chair), Jill Lothian (Head Teacher), A McIntyre, Gemma Evans, Julie McIntosh, Jo Pennington, Caroline Tice, Pam Guthrie, Claire Hicks, Kelda Pearce, Kim Gillings, Steven Bell, Euan Robson, Kenneth Keddie (S6), Aiden Gibb (S6), Dean Weatherston, Kirsty Banks, Kenneth Keddie (S6 Head Team) and Aiden Gibb (S6 Head Team).

Apologies - Sonya Nairn, Nicola Robertson and Jeanette Aitchison.

Chairperson Harriet welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief introduction to new parents that have attended. This is an opportunity to get to know each other and think about what matters to us and what we want to hear about. We aim to have meeting monthly with a focus for each. Jill's updates are great and keep us informed of what's happening at KHS. There is also an SBC wide PC Chairs forum that Harriet and Leri are part of however this has not been as active recently, more via email rather than in person.

The PC can make change happen within KHS, the mobile phone boxes an example of this. It is all about working with the school.

Minutes were circulated and approved.

It was requested that we share leavers destinations and results from SQA exams.

Head Teacher's Report

Whole School Updates:

Staffing Updates

- Mr Brown (Acting DHT)
- Mrs Cairns (Acting PT PE/HE)
- Miss Neil (Permanent Biology Teacher)
- Mrs Weatherson (Principal Teacher of Teaching & Learning)

Staff leaving

- Youth Worker – John MacLeod
- CLD Worker – Lousie Rawlins

Staff Adverts

- Teacher of PE
- Youth Worker Post

Highlights from this month:

Events

- 3rd September S5/6 Mods Studies trip to London

- 4th September SBC National Esports Regional Qualifier – 4 teams
- 8th September Senior Celebration of Learning Event – Tait Hall
- 10th September English trip – Pitlochry Festival Theatre
- 12th September Kelso Ram Sales
- 15th - 19th September NHS Virtual Workplace
- 16th September Bairnkine Farm Jedburgh Visit
- 19th September S6 Foxlake Trip
- 24th September Maths Event with Plexus and UCAS Borders Discovery Event
- 26th September Colour Run
- 29th September Act Green: Schools for Change
- 1st October Skills Quest at Kelso Racecourse
- 2nd October S1 Parent information evening
- 7th October YPI Launch S3 - Assembly Hall / S1 Team Building Royal Navy /Standhill Farm Hawick visit / Emerging School Rugby (S1 - S3)

Solar Panels:

During the October holidays there will be 232 PV modules fitted to our school roof. This should provide enough energy to significantly reduce our carbon footprint and almost cover our energy bills.

Family Support Directory:

www.scotborders.gov.uk/familysupportdirectory

Scottish Borders Council have launched a new online Family Support Directory.

This is a comprehensive directory which has been developed in collaboration with partners through the Child Poverty Action Group.

It brings together a wide range of services and support available to families and young people across the Scottish Borders. The aim is to make it easier for all families, and professionals to access the help they need - whether that's related to wellbeing, financial support, parenting, or youth services.

KHS Values:

Using our social media platform and year group assemblies we are shining a light on each of our values. Our recent posts and focus has been on Participation with Departmental Notice Boards and lots of photos.

KHS Priorities:

1. Inclusive Practices – CIRCLE Framework

Our staff have been working within trios to self-evaluate against the theme of Physical Environment:

- Accessibility of Space – barrier free, ease of access
- Adequacy of Space - availability of spaces, tailored to needs, set up of spaces including seating
- Sensory Space – Temperature/noise/lighting/odour, adjustability. Self-calming
- Visual supports – signs, labels, visual timetables, posters/displays
- Availability of Objects – objects accessible, objects suitable, adaptive devices

Staff have then observed others within their trios to promote discussions with their PT Link and agree possible next steps.

2. Leadership of Change

Staff Working Groups:

- **Improving Links with the local community** have created a series of pupil, staff and parent surveys to inform their baseline on engagement with the school and gather ideas for possible next steps. They group are also looking at organising an open afternoon/evening where parent/carers could come into school and rotate round different subjects.

- **Ensuring consistencies** have arranged for three focus weeks over the coming months. Their first focus will be on bringing ipads to school that are fully charged. During the week of 29th Sept, registration teachers recorded if a yp have their ipad with them and if there was at least 70% charge.
- **Social Times** have concentrated on House events during lunchtime with football tournaments and lunchtime quizzes. As a school we have also increased the number of organised events taking place during lunchtime,

ANA Update:

One of the main aims of the SBC ASN review was to agree ANA hours across the Clusters and bring an end to the use of temporary contracts. A timeline was agreed, with the intention of having ANA staff confirmed and in post from 21 October. Our currently ANA staff are now all permanent and we are actively looking to recruit an addition 55 hours after the October break. The formal change of the job title from Additional Needs Assistant (ANA) to Pupil Support Assistant (PSA) will also be in place next term.

Next Term

- 21st October Mertoun Estate Visit
- 21st October S6 Headteam Leadership conference
- 21st October S3 STEM Event
- 22nd October MyBank Sessions for S4
- 23rd October S3 STEM Event

Treasurers' Report

Lottery Account

The balance of the PC Lottery account as of 09.10.25 is £3,042.46

There are currently 301 active lines. This equates to £150.50 going into the prize fund and £150.50 into the account for funding requests.

The Lottery will be drawn on Tuesday 28th October and as the prize fund is now over £1000 this must be won. We will keep drawing until we have a winner(s).

The £1000 prize fund was last won at the end of March by Ginny Stewart.

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £1,925.46

Funding Requests

Social Subjects Dept

Mrs Weir has submitted a request for financial support for an annual subscription to First News, an online newspaper with articles relating to current events and world issues with associated activities. The annual subscription is £886.

Discussion took place and it was agreed to donate £450 with match funding to be sought for remaining balance e.g. Thomas Maconachie Trust (open for bid from 3-18 years old).

Support for Learning Dept
Mrs Ward has submitted a request for financial support to run a trip to the seaside for all the hardworking young people within the department. The amount requested is £200.
Discussion took place and it was agreed to donate £200 as requested for this trip.

Science Dept
Mrs Robertson has submitted a request for financial support to pay for transport to a Chemical and Life Sciences Careers Event in Edinburgh for a group of S2 pupils. The amount requested is £100.
Discussion took place and it was agreed to donate £100 as requested for this event.

Mr O'Mara (Head Janitor) has submitted a request for financial support to pay for a school trophy case to showcase pupil achievements. A specific amount was not provided.
Discussion took place and it was agreed that the pc would be keen to donate however further information and associated costing to be provided for future consideration.

Thank you from the English Department (Mrs Cameron-Lyle)
I had hoped to attend this evening to pass on our thanks on behalf of the English Department and the two Higher classes who attended the performance of The Great Gatsby in Pitlochry last month. This was a last - day - of summer term spot by Mr Holmes and a speedily organised coach by Michelle and a swiftly paid theatre invoice by Suzanne.
Your kind donation meant that all young people who attended had money for a drink and snack when we stopped at Kinross services - outward bound and return.
It really was a fabulous day from start to finish and - as expected - our students did us proud from their immaculate behaviour on the coach and in the theatre.
Sadly, a member of the public took very ill in the middle of the performance, and our students were incredibly respectful whilst the performance was paused for nearly half an hour.
A fair number of people also commented on how smart and well turned out the Kelso young men were in their suit attire! This was a nod to Gatsby and his favour towards pink suits and the general glamour of the 1920s setting.
The boys' version of 'Gatsby's on fire' for freed from desire has also been added to the highlights of the day 😊
Thank you again. It was very much appreciated by the students and me and Mr Holmes.

Main Account

The balance of the PC Main account as of 09.10.25 is £1,016.35

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £1016.35

The 2023/24 accounts have been audited by Jackie Nairn from Rennie Welch.

The 2024/25 accounts have been finalised and are ready to be audited.

Please note due to a change in the type of bank account we have for the Lottery and Main account, this means that we now pay service charges for the various transactions e.g. internet payments, cheque payments as well as a monthly maintenance fee (£4.25 per account). This is also the case for many school accounts, and I believe SBC are looking into this further.

Discussion / Questions

MyPass update – Quarriers service not renewed. New MyPass counselling service covers 10 - 18 year olds. The amount of funding available is not as much as promised. There will be 1 representative between 3 schools. Unsure of how this will be split / days in school but hoping to get everything up and running for early November. Also engaging with Cheviot Youth. School Nurses – new app.

Toilet update – Girls congregating in toilet. Ongoing issue. YP looking for a private space, but this is not the best option. There is always an SLT presence during break times.

Cluster Parent Council Meetings – one member involved from each cluster, looking for reps that would like to attend on KHS behalf as due to time constraints Harriet and Leri not able to attend.

Discussion around iPads and younger pupils accessing concerning information and sites. Is the technology safe of younger children? Issues with accessing sites at home as security is dependent on home WiFi/access and the parental restrictions in place. To feedback concerns.

Online Safety Session (online 7 in person hybrid) on Tuesday 21st October 6pm – 7.30pm all parents invited. To Groupcall out flyer to advertise. JAMF – could this be set up for parents whilst at session?

Discussion around non or low attendance, new attendance policy Feb 2025, KHS complete period by period registration. Home School Link Worker (HSLW) Ross Purves is the link between home and school, working with these families. In S1-3 we have 12 pupils overall with non or low attendance.
S1/3 with non or low attendance, 2 options:

1. Digital Offer (looking at this within KHS)
2. Beginning November there will be a satellite school at Cheviot Youth
   (2 hours per week meeting with SLT / PSA)

When pupils are not attending the sense of belonging is lost. There are 3 alternatives to attendance if not this would go to a panel. We do look to avoid home schooling as they are very much left and only checked on one a year.

Senior pupils work with Jill Latta (in school 1 day per week) to gain qualifications

Dean – there is no easy fix, and this is not only school issue, parents also need to take responsibility as well. Need to look at why and the reasons behind this?

Social spaces and seating – lack of areas and seating.

Discussion around Home Economics staffing – no applicants to recent advert. S1 are not getting HE lessons at the moment. It was suggested to reach out to other groups e.g. WI?
Anyone in school needs to have a PVG so this may be an obstacle to overcome when inviting people into school?

Date of Next Meeting

The planned date for the next meeting (in person) is Thursday 6th November.

Harriet thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.