MINUTES OF AGM MEETING OF KELSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Attendance - Leri Payne (Vice Chair), Jill Lothian (Head Teacher), Caroline Tice, Nicola Robertson, Pam Guthrie, Joanne Pennington, Kirsty Banks, Lucy Wendt, Ellie Henderson, Kelda Pearce, Fraser Banks and Dean Weatherston.

Apologies - Harriet Campbell (Chair), Simon Mountford, Tom Weatherston, A Rodwell and S Nairn.

Vice Chairperson Leri Payne welcomed everyone to the meeting and made the introductions.

AGM

Minutes of Previous AGM Meeting 09.10.25 - Minutes read and approved by Pam Guthrie, Kirsty Banks and Leri Payne.

Chairperson's Report

In 2025/6 we continued to have regular meetings although some sadly had to be cancelled/moved at short notice. Our apologies to those who were inconvenienced by this. As ever parents/carers were extremely helpful, honest and at times forthright in their views. Their thoughts and constructive criticism were extremely welcome. Early indications are that numbers were increasing in 2026/7 which is very welcome and as ever we are delighted to see new people coming along.

The big event of the 2025/6 session was the HMIE inspection held late in the Winter term. The report was published in January 2026 and we felt was balanced and, largely, fair in the issues it identified albeit possibly overly harsh in the evaluations applied to them. We were very pleased to see the strengths of the school recognised, and in particular, that our young people were recognised as being respectful, polite and keen to learn. We are very proud of all of them. The commitment of the staff and the culture built by Mrs Lothian and the SLT were also recognised as strengths and these are reflected in the way in which they have reacted to the parts of the report which were not so positive. In particular in the areas for improvement we were already aware that while the school encourages all its young people to do well, sometimes this can come across as aiming for 'well enough' rather than excellent. The report identified a need to challenge young people and to improve their attainment. This is something which we have been discussing with the SLT for some time and we are pleased that various measures are already in place and we look forward to seeing the effect of this on the performance of young people.

We also felt that the report did not sufficiently acknowledge the issues the school has had with staffing, particularly in maths, and this remains an issue which must be addressed. I attended a meeting at SBC in June at which the report was discussed and while disheartened that councillors did not seem to be previously aware of the region and country-wide shortage of maths teachers was heartened by how seriously they seemed to take the issue. We will see what results from that.

More generally we continue to push for the young people and staff of KHS to have pride in themselves, their peers and the school.

Once again fundraising was mostly carried out through our lottery although small sums were earned through the sale of teas and coffees at events. Over the year we spent just under £2,500 on a diverse

range of funding requests which supported sport, music, science, well-being, mods, drama and even a hoover so that the S6s can clean up after themselves!

Engagement with SBC remained sporadic and the Chairs group did not meet in the year.

In the coming session we are once again hoping to see many parents and carers involved in helping to support the school, all staff and pupils. We have put together a programme of meetings and would welcome feedback and thoughts from all.

Head Teacher's Report

Session 2025/2026

Session 2025/26 was a significant year for Kelso High School. Alongside the many achievements of our young people, the school welcomed an inspection by HM Inspectors of Education in November 2025. The inspection recognised important strengths in our ethos, relationships, digital learning and partnerships, while also identifying areas where we must improve at greater pace. The findings have given us a clear direction for our improvement work.

Highlights and Achievements

- **Whole School Attendance:** Our attendance rate for session 2025/26 was 87.5%. We continued to monitor and plan early interventions, with a particular focus on young people whose attendance placed their learning at risk.
- **Senior Phase Achievement:** Our senior learners continued to achieve across national qualifications, wider achievement awards, leadership roles, volunteering and employability programmes. Their commitment and resilience were celebrated through school events and recognition activities.
- **Curriculum and Pathways:** We continued to broaden pathways through National Qualifications, Skills for Work courses, NPAs, Personal Finance, vocational learning, wider achievement and partnership provision. This helped more young people access courses matched to their interests, needs and intended destinations.
- **Work Experience and Developing the Young Workforce:** Our work experience programme and links with employers, colleges and community partners provided valuable opportunities for young people to develop employability skills and understand the world of work.
- **Learner Leadership:** Our S6 Head Team and pupil leadership groups contributed to school events, transition, fundraising, pupil voice and community activities. Eg UNCRC steering group, House Captains and LTA Influencers
- **Digital Learning:** Young people continued to develop strong digital skills. Digital technology supported learning across the curriculum and enabled pupils to contribute positively to wider community initiatives.
- **Trips, Performances and Wider Achievement:** E.g. Theatre trips, S2 Floors Experience, S3 Hirsel Experience and Cairngorm trip. These experiences enriched learning and helped young people develop confidence, teamwork and leadership.
- **Sporting Achievement:** Our Senior Hockey Team enjoyed a memorable season, reaching the semi-finals, winning silver at the Scottish Schools Challenge and securing third place at the Berwick Sevens. Our young people also represented the school at the Scottish Schools Cross Country Championships and the Scottish Junior Curling Championships. At international level,

we were particularly proud to have young people selected to represent Scotland in floorball, football, cricket and rugby.

HM Inspectors of Education Inspection

HM Inspectors visited Kelso High School during the week beginning 10 November 2025. The inspection focused on leadership of change, curriculum, and ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion. Inspectors highlighted several important strengths:

- respectful young people and a positive school ethos;
- strong digital skills among learners;
- the commitment of staff and a developing culture of leadership; and
- the contribution of partners to learning and transitions.

Inspectors also identified the need for us to strengthen the pace and consistency of improvement. Our areas for improvement include more planned and collaborative leadership of change; greater consistency in the pace, challenge and assessment of learning; stronger whole-school approaches to wellbeing, equality and inclusion; and a clear strategy to improve attainment from S1 to S6. Raising attainment and achievement was evaluated as weak, and this has rightly become the central focus of our work.

School Improvement During 2025 to 2026

1 Learning Teaching and Assessment

- Staff continued to develop adaptive teaching and approaches that respond to learners' needs.
- Following the inspection, we increased our focus on pace, challenge, effective questioning, feedback and the use of assessment evidence to plan next steps.
- Digital technology and professional learning continued to support staff in improving classroom practice.

2 Attainment Tracking and Intervention

- We strengthened tracking across the Broad General Education and Senior Phase to identify progress, underachievement and learners requiring support.
- Tracking and monitoring meetings supported more timely, targeted interventions for individuals and groups.
- Attainment evidence increasingly informed improvement planning and decisions about learner support.

3 Inclusion Wellbeing and Equality

- We continued to develop approaches that improve attendance, participation, belonging and access to learning.
- The CIRCLE Framework supported staff to understand and reduce barriers to participation.

4 Leadership and Partnership

- Staff at all levels were encouraged to lead aspects of improvement and contribute to collaborative professional learning.
- Our partnerships with families, primary schools, colleges, employers and community organisations continued to enrich learning, support transitions and extend opportunities.

Attainment

Broad General Education

The percentage of learners achieving the expected Curriculum for Excellence levels in literacy and numeracy at the end of session 2025/26 is shown below.

Organiser	Third Level	Fourth Level
Listening and talking	84%	70%
Reading	86%	75%
Writing	81%	70%
Numeracy	93%	58%

Senior Phase Attainment Leavers May 2025

- Almost all leavers achieved SCQF Level 4 Literacy, in line with national comparators.
- Most leavers achieved SCQF Level 5 Literacy, above national comparators.
- Most leavers achieved SCQF Level 4 Numeracy and most achieved SCQF Level 5 Numeracy, both in line with national comparators.
- Most leavers achieved one or more qualifications at SCQF Level 5, and the majority achieved five or more.
- The majority achieved one or more qualifications at SCQF Level 6, and a minority achieved five or more.
- A few leavers achieved one or more qualifications at SCQF Level 7.

Positive Destinations

The initial positive destination rate for May 2025 leavers was 98.18%, with a sustained positive destination rate of 97.3%. This remained above national comparators. Recorded destinations included employment (34%), further education (25%), training (1.82%) and higher education (36%). All eight winter leavers entered an initial positive destination.

Moving Forward

Our focus for session 2026/27 is Improving Attainment and Achievement Together. The shared message for staff is Every learner. Every lesson. Every day. We are taking forward four connected priorities:

- **Learning Teaching and Assessment:** increasing pace and challenge, using assessment more effectively and ensuring timely intervention.
- **Leading Improvement Together:** strengthening planned, purposeful and collaborative leadership at all levels, with greater involvement from learners, parents and partners.
- **Inclusion Wellbeing and Equality:** improving belonging, participation, attendance and equitable access to learning.
- **Partnerships Curriculum and Attainment:** using robust tracking and targeted support while continuing to develop relevant pathways and partnerships.

HM Inspectors are expected to revisit the school during session 2026/27- Feb 2027? We will use clear evidence of changes in practice and their impact on young people to evaluate our progress. Our aim is not simply to prepare for the revisit, but to secure sustained improvement in the experiences and outcomes of every learner.

We are grateful for the continued support and constructive challenge of the Parent Council, our families and our wider community. Working together will be central to achieving the improvements our young people deserve.

Treasurer's Report

Accounts are as presented below:

Kelso High School Parent Council
50/50 Lottery Account
Income and Expenditure for the year to 30th June 2026

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Income							
Income from Lottery lines			3610.00		3672.50		2,913.00
Total Income			3,610.00		3,672.50		2,913.00
Expenditure							
Prize money paid to winners		1568.50		2000.00		1,000.00	
Lottery licence		20.00		20.00		20.00	
Bank Service Charges		51.00		17.00		0.00	
Refund Payment Error (JL)		0.00		37.50		0.00	
Funding requests	**1**	2,405.00		1,317.34		1,507.50	
			4044.50		3391.84		2,527.50
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year			(434.50)		280.66		385.50
Represented by:							
Balance in account brought forward			2421.21		2140.55		1,755.05
Surplus/(deficit)			(434.50)		280.66		385.50
Balance in account as at 30th June 2025			1,986.71		2,421.21		2,140.55

Notes

1	**Funding Requests:**	£
	English Dept Theatre Trip (Gatsby)	200.00
	Science Dept (Wireless Sensors)	300.00
	Social Subjects Dept (First News Subscription 25/26)	450.00
	SfL Dept (Seaside Trip)	200.00
	Science Dept (Transport to Chemical and Life Sciences Careers Event)	100.00
	S6 (Hoover for Flexi-Space)	30.00
	Donation to Bus to Hockey Cup Final	300.00
	Drama Dept (Spotlight for Assembly Hall)	325.00
	Social Subjects Dept (First News Subscription 26/27)	500.00
		2,405.00

Kelso High School Parent Council							
Main Account							
Income and Expenditure for the year to 30th June 2026							
		2025		2025		2024	
	Notes					£	£
Income							
SBC Clerk Grant			650		600		600.00
Coffee/Teas Sales			0		155.14		79.58
Easyfundraising			16.08		18.22		0.00
Total Income			666.08		773.36		679.58
Expenditure							
Clerk's Fees		650		600		600.00	
Bank Service Charges		53.34		21.75		0.00	
Flowers		30		0.00		25.00	
Zoom Renewal		0.00		0.00		143.88	
			733.34		621.75		768.88
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year			-67.26		151.61		-89.30
Represented by:							
Balance in account brought forward			1060.02		908.41		997.71
Surplus/(deficit)			-67.26		151.61		(89.30)
Balance in account carried forward			992.76		1060.02		908.41

Accounts have been submitted for audit by Jackie Nairn (independent examiner).

Harriet has submitted a request for annual funding to SBC, this is paid to Clerk.

Election of Office Bearers

Chairperson – Harriet Campbell
Nominated by Pam Guthrie
Seconded by Kirsty Banks

Vice Chairperson – Leri Payne
Nominated by Joanne Pennington
Seconded by Pam Guthrie

Treasurer – Suzanne Cowe
Nominated by Leri Payne
Seconded by Lucy Wendt

Clerk – Suzanne Cowe
Nominated by Leri Payne
Seconded by Pam Guthrie

Everyone agreed and was happy with the election of the returning Office Bearers.

New List of Members

It is mandatory that we have a list of PC members so everyone in attendance tonight including the people who submitted apologies will now make up our new list of members. No objections received from attendees.

Leri expressed our thanks to everyone for attending and then concluded AGM section of the meeting.