MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KELSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2026 IN PERSON

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.

Chair's Report

Celebration of Learning - Leri attended a fantastic evening, congratulations to all our young people. The guest speaker was excellent, a very inspiring story of his post KHS path. It was a shame more pupils and families were unable to attend. The feedback from other parents was very positive.
We are looking at doing something similar for our S3 cohort.

Keeping families updated about staffing etc via weekly updates.

Review of planned meeting dates:

Thursday 29th October	Wellbeing (Colette Curren / Mel Carson)
Tuesday 8th December	Behaviour (to confirm with Harriet)
Thursday 21st January	Life at KHS (food, activities, uniform)
Thursday 18th March	Qualifications Scotland Overview / Exams
Thursday 29th April	Pupil Voice (Caitlin Niles)
Thursday 10th June	2026/27 Overview

Parent Hub event tomorrow runs 2.00pm to 4.00pm, can the end time be shared with parents please.

Head Teacher's Report

Staffing Updates

- Vacancy - Teacher of Maths. Secured a Maths supply teacher, Mr Carruthers has settled in well.

Rights Respecting Schools

This week, we are delighted to begin the next stage of our journey towards becoming a UNICEF Rights Respecting School and achieving the Silver: Rights Aware Award.
Over the coming months, via our 'Article of the Week' our young people and staff will explore the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and consider how children's rights are reflected in learning, relationships and decision-making across our school. This work connects closely with our PRIDE values and our commitment to ensuring every young person feels included, respected and able to participate fully in school life.

Young people will play an important role in shaping this journey, helping us raise awareness of children's rights and identify how we can strengthen our practice. We look forward to sharing regular updates with families and involving our wider school community as our work progresses.

Celebration of Learning – Senior Phase

On Thursday 3rd Sept, we came together for our annual Senior Phase Celebration of Learning, recognising the achievements, commitment and successes of our young people throughout session 2025–26.

We were delighted to welcome Dr Zach Blaikie, recipient of the Freedom of Kelso High School Award 2026, to present our Attainment and PRIDE Awards, alongside Kelso Laddie 2026, Mr Chad Patterson. We were also honoured to welcome Ms Anne Edwards, who presented the new William W. Cochrane Memorial Cup for Outstanding Determination, established in memory of her father.

This year's Friends of Kelso High School Awards were presented to RHET Scottish Borders Countryside Initiative, Floors Castle and Roxburghe Estates, Murray Hastie and Chris Fraser in recognition of their outstanding support for KHS.

Congratulations to our 2026 Dux, Iona Bradshaw, recipient of The Bowmont Medal, and our Proxime Accessit, Amy Wilkie, recipient of The Scott Salver. We are incredibly proud of their outstanding achievements.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the evening such a success.

Attainment Profile & Target Grades

At Kelso High School, we are continually looking for ways to ensure that every young person is supported, challenged and empowered to achieve their very best. As part of this commitment, we are introducing **Early Target Setting and Attainment Profiles** for all learners in the Senior Phase (S4-S6). An Attainment Profile is a live record of a learner's progress and achievement throughout the year. It brings together key information including:

- Target grades for each subject.
- Current levels of attainment and progress.
- Strengths and areas of success.
- Attendance and engagement information where appropriate.
- Agreed next steps and support strategies.
- Updates following assessment and tracking points.

Access to these for parents is via SHOWBIE

Kelso Cluster Information Hub

We are delighted to invite families to the Kelso Cluster Information Hub at Kelso High School on Friday 18 September from 2.00pm.

This informal event is a great opportunity to discover the wide range of support services, clubs and community groups available across the Kelso area. Families can meet representatives from local organisations, ask questions and learn more about activities and support for children, young people and adults.

A wide range of organisations will be attending, covering family support, health and wellbeing, additional support needs, advice services, sport and recreation. Please come along, meet the teams and find out what is available within our community.

Attainment Session 2025-26

Literacy and Numeracy:

- Performance in Literacy at SCQF Level 5, 2026 has increased by 9% this year with 89.47% achieving a level 5 Literacy in S4
- Performance in Numeracy at SCQF Level 5, 2026 has increased by 31.71% with 78.07% achieving a Level 5 Numeracy in S4. This is a five year high.
- Performance in Literacy at SCQF Level 6, 2026 has increased by 6% this year with 83% achieving a Level 6 Literacy by the end of S6
- Performance in Numeracy at SCQF Level 6, 2026 has increased by 8% this year with 34% achieving a Level 6 Numeracy by the end of S6

What's Coming up

- 18th Sept Cambridge Uni Scotland Schools Tour / S6 Foxlake trip / Golf Competition
- 22nd Sept Agriculture Trip to Caverton Mill
- 23rd Sept UCAS Discovery Visit
- 24th Sept S1 Parent Information Evening
- 1st Oct Senior Phase Surgery Evening

Treasurers' Report

Lottery Account

The balance of the PC Lottery account as of 17.09.26 is £1,908.21.

There are currently 309 active lines. This equates to £154.50 going into the prize fund and £154.50 into the account for funding requests.

The Lottery was drawn on 28.08.26 and the prize fund of £1000 was won by Karen Little – congratulations!!

The next draw will take place at the end of September and the prize fund will be approximately £236.

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £1,669.21

Funding Requests

- DYW (Miss Roden)
  Miss Roden joined the meeting via teams and provided background and detailed information about the bid submitted – funding required to enhance the offer of DYW engagement through events within school e.g. tables, chairs, hosting catering equipment etc. Discussion took place and agreed to a donation of £1000. Dean also suggested submitting a bid to the Common Good Fund for match funding.
- Biology Dept (Miss Neil)
  Miss Neil joined the meeting via teams and provided background and detailed information about the bid submitted – contribution to transport costs for a Higher Biology trip to Edinburgh University, invaluable experience for pupils. Discussion took place and agreed to a donation of £300.

- Music (Mr Borthwick)
  Mr Borthwick was unable to join the meeting. The bid submitted was for funds to replace many keyboard power supplies that no longer work within the Music Dept. Discussion took place and agreed to cover the cost for 9 replacement power supplies at a cost of approximately £42.

Main Account

The balance of the PC Main account as of 17.09.26 is £1,000.19.

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £1,000.19

Discussion / Questions

S6 Head Team attending year group assemblies – capturing pupil voice via Instagram. Request that this is fed back to the Parent Council.

Upcoming conference with other Head Teams to debate on active transport.

Colour Run on Friday 25/9 clashing with first away hockey game.

S6 pupils volunteering in younger classes, Fraser confirmed pupils are enjoying this and it counts towards a Saltire Award.

Canteen – new layout for queuing and tidying up seems to be working well. Still looking at seating for the foyer area, working out what the best plan is. Can we utilise new DYW tables / chairs?

No updates from SBC.

Discussion about the annual clerk funding, to chase up.

Date of Next Meeting

The planned date for the next meeting (in person):

- Thursday 29th October, 7pm - Wellbeing with Mel Carson / Colette Curran

Leri thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.