MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KELSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 26TH MARCH 2026 IN PERSON

Attendance - Harriet Campbell (Chair), Leri Payne (Vice Chair), Jill Lothian (Head Teacher), Jo Pennington, Jeanette Aitchison, Pam Guthrie, Alicja McIntyre, Kirsty Banks, Caroline Tice and Kelda Pearce.

Apologies - Simon Mountford, Steven Bell and Sonya Nairn.

Chair Harriet welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Discussion around setting meeting dates in advance.

Minutes from the previous meeting on 28th January 2026 approved by Jeanette, Kirsty and Jo.

Chairperson's Report

Discussion around having PC representatives at Parents' Evenings, worked well, encouraging parents to come along and/or finding out the barriers to attending.

HMIe Report to be a standard agenda item.

Parent Council Chairs Meeting – Kelda attended on behalf of Broomlands PS, main focus was leaver destinations, attendance and attainment. Discussion around targeted pupil support within clusters. There is funding available for clusters under outdoor learning. There is lots happening around pupil support, 59% of pupils have additional support needs. KHS has the highest percentage of positive destinations (joint with Hawick) and also sustained destinations.

Discussion around a FOI regarding what happens with data that SBC / Apple get from school iPads.

Leri expressed her thanks to Jill and KHS for the support towards the hockey cup final in Glasgow on 13th March. Kelso had the loudest and such well behaved supporters and they gave the team a boost. Scottish Hockey complimented the team on being so nice to everyone, their opponents and saying thank you to the umpires and all the supporters – a credit to KHS.

Head Teacher's Report

<u>Whole School Updates</u>

Staffing Updates

- PT Modern Languages – Mrs Scott-Larsen returned from maternity leave on 23rd February
- Teacher of Music – Mr Borthwick returns to work full time next week following his phased return

- Teacher of Computing – Dr Warner will begin a 4 week phased return from Monday 30th March
- Teacher of English – Currently being advertised
- Teacher of HE – Mrs Hinnigan return from maternity leave after Easter holiday
- Youth Worker – Lorna Johnstone has been in post since 23rd February

Parent Engagement Evenings
We held a very successful Careers Fair on 12thMarch with the changed format from 2pm – 5pm allowing our young people from S3 – S6 access to the staff during the school day with an hour after school for parents.
We held our S3, S4 and S5/6 Parents nights over three weeks, thank you to Parent Council members who attended this night as reps and spoke with parents. Staff and parent feedback was very positive regarding the swap in timing with the Senior Phase surgery evening and the main Parents night.

Course Choice for Session 2026-27
Pastoral staff and I have now met with all young people in S2–S5 who have indicated that they will be returning to KHS. These 1:1 meetings have allowed us to support learners in making informed decisions about their subject choices. A range of information has been used during this process, including staff recommendations and detailed subject guidance.

I would like to recognise the significant efforts of our Pastoral team, who have supported young people over a number of weeks through PSE, as well as through individual meetings with parents. Their work has been instrumental in ensuring that learners feel supported and well-informed. Throughout this process, every effort has been made to guide young people towards choices that provide an appropriate level of challenge, while also offering a realistic opportunity for success.

Changes for Session 2026-27 due the fact that all nine schools have aligned 4 columns to allow more flexibility and opportunities to broaden our curriculum offer:

- AH Digital Offer – Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Maths, French and Mechanics
- S5/6 pupils moving between Kelso & Jedburgh to expand curricular offer e.g. Politics, Furniture Making, Business Management, Applications of Maths Higher
- S6 Opportunity on a Friday to attend Galashiels:
    - Work Placement
    - Volunteering
    - Youth Achievement Award
    - Sports Leaders

HMIE Update/Action Plan
See attached PowerPoint Presentation

<u>Highlights from this month:</u>

Events

- 25th Feb S3 Visit to QMU
- 13th March Hockey Finals in Glasgow
- Ongoing Sporting highlights from hockey, rugby, cross-country running

What's Coming up

- 2nd April S6 Last day
- Easter Hols Senior Study Sessions throughout the two weeks
- 21st April Final day for Seniors
- 22nd April Qualification Scotland Exams begin
- 12th May S1 Parents' Evening
- 11th - 15th May S3 Work Placement Week
- 18th May Start of new Timetable

Treasurers' Report

Lottery Account

The balance of the PC Lottery account as of 26.03.26 is £2,208.46

There are currently 311 active lines. This equates to £155.50 going into the prize fund and £155.50 into the account for funding requests.

The Lottery was last won at the end of January 2026, Eric Briggs won the prize fund of £568.50!

The next draw will take place at the end of March with a prize fund of approximately £313.00.

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £1,876.71

Main Account

The balance of the PC Main account as of 26.03.26 is £1,010.68.

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £1,010.68

Requests for Funding:

Request for donation towards the cost of the spectator bus to the recent National Schools Hockey Cup Final in Glasgow on 13th March, total cost was £600. Agreed to split the cost, PC to make a £300 contribution.

Discussion / Questions

Discussion around Parents' Evenings – would be helpful to have a map showing where each dept / faculty is located. A banner for the PC table would be useful. Suzanne thought there may be something in the store cupboard, will check and advise.

PC asked for help with 'Kelsofying' the updated policies for Positive Relationships, Attendance etc. May be helpful to review examples from schools with good HMIe reports. It makes sense to look at thus cluster wide.

Mobile Phones – any update on a phone ban? No change at the moment. Discuss around mobile phones in school. Lunch activities to keep pupils occupied – questionnaire / youth worker involved?

Planning for S6 Last Day on 2nd April with Head Team.

Seating – more outdoor seating / on wheels?

Date of Next Meeting

The planned dates for the next two meetings (in person):

- Thursday 30th April, 7pm
- Thursday 28th May, 7pm

Harriet thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.