MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KELSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 27TH AUGUST 2026 IN PERSON

Attendance - Harriet Campbell (Chair), Leri Payne (Vice Chair), Jill Lothian (Head Teacher), Lucy Knox (S6 Head Team), Lewis Fleming (S6 Head Team), Jo Pennington, Pam Guthrie, Natalie Dickson, Christine Riley, Steven Bell, Ellie Henderson, Jemma Murray, Dean Weatherson, Euan Robson, Lucy Wendt, Kristien Went, Kirsty Banks and Kelda Pearce.

Apologies - Nicola Robertson and Caroline Tice.

Chair Harriet welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Head Teacher's Report

Staffing Updates

- New Starts – Mrs Northcott (Teacher of English), Carly Anderson (Pastoral Support Assistant, Kale House)
- Change of name – PE Mrs Campbell (nee Allan), Music Mrs Niles (nee Riley), German Mrs Liljeheim (nee MacKenzie)
- Vacancy – Teacher of Maths. Secured a Maths supply teacher, Mr Carruthers who will begin on Monday.
- Community Learning and Development worker – Caitlin Riddell
- Educational Psychologist Christie Brown has left as and currently advertising for a replacement.

Staff INSET:

- **Pace & Challenge**: Relook at definition and what this looks like within our classrooms. Using scaffolding to plan lessons with timed activities to ensure all learners are engaged.

- **Developing Meta Skills:** Alongside knowledge and qualifications, we want our young people to develop the Meta Skills they will need for learning, life and the world of work. These include skills such as communication, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, resilience and self-management. Across their learning, young people will have opportunities to recognise, develop and reflect on these skills, helping them understand not only what they are learning, but how they are growing as learners. By making these skills more visible, we aim to help every young person become increasingly confident, independent and prepared for their next steps beyond school.

- **The CIRCLE Framework – Supporting Participation**: As part of our commitment to ensuring every young person feels included, supported and able to participate fully in school life, we are continuing to develop our use of the CIRCLE Framework. A key part of this is the CIRCLE

Participation Scale, which helps staff understand how well a young person is able to participate across different aspects of school, including their learning, relationships and wider school experiences. By identifying both strengths and potential barriers to participation, we can work with young people to agree appropriate support and make practical changes that help them become more engaged, independent and successful. This supports our aim of ensuring that every young person can participate, belong and achieve.

- Exam.Net – supporting assessments: Exam.net is a secure digital assessment platform that we will use to support learning and assessment across the school. It allows teachers to create and deliver assessments in a controlled online environment, while enabling young people to complete work using their iPad. The platform can also provide appropriate digital supports for learners who normally use these as part of their learning and assessment arrangements. Using Exam.net helps our young people become familiar and confident with digital approaches to assessment, while allowing staff to gather reliable evidence of progress and identify strengths, next steps and where further support may be required.

- Collaborative Teacher Hubs: staff will be working in a structured way to investigate, trial, evaluate and share what makes a difference for our learners at KHS. There is a choice of 3 three strands:

    - Active Learning - How consistently are learners thinking, participating and taking a n active role in learning?
    - Higher Order Thinking - How can questioning promote deeper thinking, explanation, reasoning and challenge?
    - Feedback - How can feedback help learners understand progress and take effective next steps?

Head Team: Our new S6 Head Team will attend Parent Council on a regular basis.

Qualification Scotland Results: There is much to celebrate in our Qualifications Scotland results, which reflect the hard work, determination and commitment of our young people and staff. Across a number of key measures, we have either matched or improved upon our performance from last session, with many young people achieving excellent individual results. While we recognise that there are areas where we want to improve further, these results provide a positive foundation on which to build. Our focus this session will be on raising attainment and achievement for every young person, ensuring that all learners are supported and challenged to achieve the very best outcomes possible.

What's Coming up

- 2nd/3rd Sept H Mods/Politics Trip to London
- 3rd Sept Celebration of Learning – Senior Phase
- 7th Sept All Seniors will be setting their Target Grade with staff
- 17th Sept S1 Parent Information Evening
- 18th Sept S6 Trip to Foxlake

Treasurers' Report

Lottery Account

The balance of the PC Lottery account as of 78.08.26 is £2,580.46.

There are currently 312 active lines. This equates to £156 going into the prize fund and £156 into the account for funding requests.

The Lottery will be drawn tomorrow and as the prize fund is £1000 there must be a winner!!

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £1,580.46

Main Account

The balance of the PC Main account as of 27.08.26 is £1,004.44.

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £1,004.44

Discussion / Questions

Mobile Phone Consultation – shared via school

Digital Wellbeing Survey, one for pupils and one for parents / carers, relating to online harm and social media – to be shared.

What do we care about? What do we need to focus on?

Review of mental health / wellbeing (Colette)
Pupil Voice (Caitlin)

Clearer communication:

* Groupcall
* sharing staffing updates
* Social media
* weekly updates

Canteen / menus – more information shared with home. S6 could make a video showcasing the new lunch process, what's available and how to order?

Dean highlighted offer from NFU voucher (£100+) to buy meat locally – to share with Home Ec dept. Discussion around contributions for Home Economics / CDT classes.

Disruptions in classes, affecting the pace of learning.

Senior Phase – Pathways

What's happening around school – what changes are made?

LT Influencers

Extra curricular activities and clubs - lunchtimes / after school

Parents' Evening – having reps from the PC was very helpful

Parents Evening dates for 26/27:

Thurs 24th Sept	S1 Parent Information Evening
Thurs 1st Oct	Senior Surgery Evening
Wed 25th Nov	S4 Parents Evening
Thurs 3rd Dec	S5/6 Parents Evening
Wed 3rd Feb	S2 Parents Evening
Tues 2nd Mar	S3 Parents Evening
Tues 11th May	S1 Parents Evening

Leri shared her thanks to Jill for the letter of acknowledgement sent to pupils that achieved really good results in this year's Qualifications Scotland results.

How do we showcase all pathways? There is no wrong path - follow your dreams!

Update on trophy cabinet – really keen for the process to be documented and shared – videos and photos to show the progress.

Date of Next Meeting

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

- AGM - Thursday 17th September, 7pm

Harriet thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.