MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KELSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 30TH APRIL 2026 IN PERSON

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

Apologies - Simon Mountford and Nicola Robertson.

Chair Harriet welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes from the previous meeting on 23rd March 2026 approved by Pam and Kelda.

Update re PC banner, located and can be used for events etc.

Trophy Cabinet – our HSLW Ross is putting together a proposal to make bespoke to KHS, will be looking to split cost between PC and TM Trust. To confirm look, location and whether connected to wall or free standing.

Chairperson's Report

Discussion around recent proposal for ban of mobile phones in English school and how this may affect Scottish schools in the future.

English schools do have more power over changes and actions taken within schools. Scottish Government will give guidance but are much slower to make changes.

To keep an eye on the progress this makes, and we welcome any feedback to be shared with PC.

Pupils will have phones to be contactable and that is fine if they are only using the device for calls and texts however the issues arise with access to social media apps. These are not necessary within school. From a safety perspective being able to contact pupils is good e.g. bus pupils, diabetics, anxiety etc.

Discussion around mobile phones. Important to collaborate with pupils – what do they want?

Mobile phones are part of the PSE (Personal & Social Education) curriculum however this needs to be a part of all subject areas. There needs to be supports in place and pupils being aware of where to go for help. Screen free room? This seems to be an issue with senior pupils more than juniors; we have found during this study leave period that our BGE pupils are taking advantage of the activities and groups on within school.

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

Staffing Updates

- Teacher of HE – Mrs Hinnigan return from maternity leave after Easter
- Teacher of English – we received 12 applicants for this post. Following interview we have a preferred candidate pending references. Mrs Northcott has 17 years' experience and currently works in West Lothian.

At this moment in time, we are fully staffed in all areas for Session 2026-27.

Family Support Fair

As a cluster, we organised and delivered an event for our families on Friday 24th April. The aim of the event was to provide an opportunity for families to access information, advice and support from a range of local organisations. To support this, we invited several agencies and community groups who could offer guidance and services across a variety of areas.

While attendance on the day was lower than we had hoped, the event still proved valuable. Our organisation was able to build and strengthen relationships with the attending partners, creating opportunities for future collaboration. As a result of these discussions, we have agreed to host a similar event again in September. For this next event, we plan to broaden our approach by also inviting local clubs and community groups in order to increase engagement and attract more families.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the following organisations for giving up their time to support us and our families. Their contribution was greatly appreciated, and we look forward to working together again in the future.

Sustainable Borders
Parental Employability Support
Berwickshire Swap
Wellbeing Service
Parent Space
Children 1st
A Positive Start
Sonya Nairn - School Nurse Service
PC Liam Lawrence
Lesley Anne Nevins - CLD
Meeting of Minds
Kelso Churches Together
Morebattle Playgroup

Qualification Scotland Exams

We are delighted to share that our Senior Phase exam diet is progressing very positively in school.

Our young people have been making excellent use of the additional supported study and revision sessions offered by staff, demonstrating real commitment to their learning and preparation. It has also been very encouraging to see our learners arriving punctually for their exams, well-prepared and ready to do their best.

Our exam invigilators have commented very favourably on the conduct of our young people throughout this exam period. Their mature, respectful and focused approach has been noted and is a credit to both themselves and the wider school community.

During this period, we have arranged for subject immersion sessions to take place the day before each of the subject exams.

We would like to thank parents and carers for your continued support during this important time.

Timetable

Our draft S1-S6 timetable is now complete, and we are on track to change our timetable from the 18th May. This will result in S1- S3 moving into S2-S4 ahead of the Seniors returning to school at the start of June.

HMIE Update/Action Plan

Focus on Achievement. Within Scottish Education we have a number of key elements that are taking into consideration when we plan our curriculum:

- 4 capacities are at the core - designed to empower young people as **successful learners**, **confident individuals**, **responsible citizens**, and **effective contributors**. They focus on developing knowledge, skills, and attributes for life and work.
- 4 Contexts of Learning
    - **Curriculum Areas and Subjects:** The core academic disciplines (e.g., literacy, numeracy, science, arts) that organize learning experiences.
    - **Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL):** Learning that bridges different subject areas, allowing learners to apply skills and knowledge in a real-world, interconnected way.
    - **Ethos and Life of the School:** The atmosphere, values, and community of the school. It includes relationships, climate, and the ethos of respect, trust, and shared values.
    - **Opportunities for Personal Achievement:** Activities, both inside and outside the classroom, which enable students to build motivation, confidence, and resilience through achievements.
- Cross-cutting themes:
    - **Learning for Sustainability (LfS):** A core theme across all professional standards, encompassing outdoor learning, global citizenship, and sustainable development education.
    - **Equality and Diversity:** Ensuring inclusive practices that value and respect the diverse backgrounds of all children and young people.
    - **Digital Literacies:** Building skills for a digital world across all subjects.
    - **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths):** Integrating inquiry-based learning across the curriculum.
    - **Literacy, Numeracy, and Health & Wellbeing:** These are deemed core and foundational to all other learning.
    - **Creativity and Employability:** Fostering skills for the future, including enterprise and financial literacy.

- Meta Skills**:**
    - **Self-Management-**Focusing, Integrity, Adapting, Initiative
    - **Social Intelligence-**Communicating, Feeling, Collaborating, Leading
    - **Innovation:** Curiosity, Creativity, Sense-Making, Critical Thinking
- **Achievement –** see attached PowerPoint presentation that will be shared with staff during the May INSET

Highlights from this month:

What's Coming up

- 22nd April Qualification Scotland Exams begin
- 12th May S1 Parent Evening
- 11th - 15th May S3 Work Placement Week
- 18th May Start of new Timetable
- 27th May New S3 RHET trip to Hirsel
- 28th May New S2 trip to Floors

Treasurers' Report

Lottery Account

The balance of the PC Lottery account as of 30.04.26 is £2,187.21.

There are currently 306 active lines. This equates to £153.00 going into the prize fund and £153.00 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 May with a prize fund of approximately £600.00.

Since the last meeting £300 was paid out for a contribution towards the bus for the recent Hockey Cup Finals in Glasgow,

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £1,587.21

Main Account

The balance of the PC Main account as of 26.03.26 is £1,001.26.

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £1,001.26

Requests for Funding:

Request from Drama Dept for funds to purchase a spotlight for future shows / productions, total cost is £325. Discussion and request agreed.

Easyfundraising

KHS Parent Council had previously setup an account with Easyfundraising a number of years ago. This is a completely free funding stream for our school where donations are generated when users shop online. The account has now been updated with correct contact information etc and we are looking to publicise this with parents and our wider community. Suzanne will put together some information that can be shared to encourage people to sign up and use this free service when shopping. This will raise funds for KHS PC with very minimal effort!

Discussion / Questions

Discussion around recent Family Support Fair.

Reviewed Jill's HMIe PowerPoint.

Suzanne to email members for PC reps to attend the S1 Parents' Evening on Tuesday 12th May.

Date of Next Meeting

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

- Thursday 28th May, 7pm (last meeting of the session)

Harriet thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.