

KEMNAY ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

The Parent Council welcomes you a new school year. We held our first meeting on the 23rd of August. Present were 7 parents (5 members, two attendees), Mrs Paul, Mr Sellon, Ms Buchan and Miss Arthur. Key points of the meeting are below.

Make of the Parent Council 2016-17

2 senior pupils- changing through the year

Office Bearers for 2016-17

The Parent Council has made the following changes to its Office Bearers for this session

Chair: Bob Jones (S5, S1)

Deputy Chair: Phil Dymond (S2, S4)

Treasurer: Alex Kovacs (S3)

Secretary - **Vacant - See Opposite....**

Warm thanks are given to Eric Marston for his stint in the Chair for the last few years. Also to Kirsten Cassidy who has stepped down as Treasurer and Janie Keddie for her valued contributions.

Non Office Bearing Parent Members

Alan Smith (S4)

Eric Marston (S6)

Phil Goby (S3)

Janie Keddie (S5)

Carol Sim (S5) - Also PTA rep

Staff Representatives

Sandra Buchan - Head of Sciences

Fiona Allen - Principal Teacher - Guidance

Pupil Representatives

Advisor to the Parent Council

Lizbeth Paul - Rector.

Spare Places...

There are currently 8 members. The maximum number of Parents we can have is 12, so there are spaces available, and every voice is valuable. So why not give it a go? Not sure and don't want to commit - come along to one or two meetings, see how we operate, then decide. Fancy a chat about what's involved, what happens at the meetings, what's is actually like...then get in touch via the parent council email...

Secretary Vacancy....

We thought we try something different this year. The role of the Secretary will be a 'paid' position.

Duties are to take the minutes of the meeting. Meetings are 6-7 per academic year, each last around 2-2 ½ hours. We can afford to pay £30 per meeting.

We will start out by trying to not pay ourselves, i.e. parents of children at the school - that should be voluntary. If you know of anyone, please point them in our direction.

Setting up the Agenda for 2016-17...

As per last year, we have set up standing items that will be covered at each meeting. These are;

Parent Forum Communication and Parental Skills: The key to being a good Parent Council is communication. How do we reach out and put information to the Forum and how well to be do it? Just as importantly, if not more importantly, how do we get feedback from the Forum? **Parental Skills:** How we can tap into the pool of talent that is the Parent Forum? How can we enable Parents to help provide some wider support all our youngsters and the School - advice, information for things like careers fairs, helping out with mock interviews, the business breakfast...

Standards and Quality Report & Improvement Plan (SQUIP): Every School has a SQUIP. The **Improvement Plan** is drawn up from information from pupils, parents and teaching staff, and sets out which aspects of the school as a whole can be improved. The plan is looks forward over a number of years and is subject to an annual review.

Setting up the Agenda Continued...

The **Standards and Quality Report** looks backwards over the previous year, and is used to demonstrate how the School is following the aims set out in the Improvement Plan.

For example the Improvement Plan process may have identified more could be done in making sure pupils have a clearer picture of their own learning and progress. This would become an aim in the Plan and a timescale allocated for this to be achieved.

The Standard and Quality Report would then set out the practical steps needed to meet the aim of improving clarity for all Pupils. As the year progresses the Report is regularly updated, asking 'Have we done what we said we would? What do we need to keep working at? Do we need to update the Improvement Plan?

The Parent Council's role in this process is to be the sounding board and critical friend for Mrs Paul and her Leadership team, as they report on the School's progress against the aims of the Improvement Plan over the school year.

Attainment: One of the key aims of the School is to 'Raise Attainment for All' and to 'Close the Gap' - which aims to break the link between affluence and attainment - i.e. a child's background doesn't affect their attainment. For info - Attainment is the outcome of formal qualifications, Achievement is success outside formal qualifications. The Parent Council will be reviewing the Schools performance in two sessions - one in October, the second in February. Both are linked to updates of the National attainment database - **Insight**

Faculty Presentations: This year the Parent Council will set aside time to allow Principal Teachers from the School's Faculties (e.g. Science, Modern Languages, Humanities etc) to explain how their Faculty works, the skills developed by the pupils, how the subjects within the faculty are taught... The aim is to help better inform Parents on the work of the School at this more practical level.

See the School in Action...

Ever wondered what a normal day is like at the Academy? The School is opening it's doors to Parents on a normal working afternoon - Tuesday the 27th of September.

Come along - see how lessons have changed since you were at school, see what's the same.

Alongside there will be an opportunity to meet with teachers in a more informal setting.

Changes to Parent Council Contact Details

The Parent Council have decided to set up a new email address.

The new email is kemnayacademypc@gmail.com

Drop us a line, and we can email this newsletter and other information directly to you if you wish.

All Weather Pitch Progress Update...

You may have seen works at the back of the School - this is the new All Weather pitch.

It is scheduled for completion by the October break. Just in time for the weather to turn...

Hopefully you have found this note summarising the last Parent Council meeting interesting and informative. If you would like to get in touch with the Parent Council, then the

email is kemnayacademypc@gmail.com

Best Regards

Kemnay Academy Parent Council.

DON'T FORGET...THE NEXT PARENT COUNCIL MEETING..4TH OCTOBER.

The main theme of the meeting will be a review of last session's attainment figures (Nationals, Highers etc).

