

Kemnay Academy Parent Council (KAPC)

Meeting Date: Tuesday 4th December

Meeting Venue: Staff Room, Kemnay Academy

Present: Catriona Skinner, Michelle Meyer, Stuart Cambell, Oliver Mowatt, Carol Sim

Also in attendance: Lizbeth Paul (Headteacher), Fiona Allan (Principal Teacher - Guidance), Kathleen Murray (Parent), Xania Arracks (Parent), Sue Wainman (Kemnay Community Council), and additional parents.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies received from Alan Smith, Ava Rennie, Phil Goby, Cllr Ford, Cllr Reid, Hasiba Jawad (Teacher representative - Maths).

1. Approval of Previous Minutes & Housekeeping

Minutes of meeting from the Parent Council meeting held 10th October were proposed by Catriona Skinner, seconded by Michelle Meyer.

Actions from October

Proposed Constitution Changes - Christinne McLennan invited, but was not able to attend. Questions and feedback raised at the October meeting will be shared at next Aberdeenshire wide parent forum.

Audit of Accounts - Oliver confirmed accounts have been audited and are in good order. Balance is £695.

Growing Roll & Accommodation - Mrs Paul updated the Parent Council on the roll and accommodation, and Bob was invited in to school for a site visit. There is outstanding repair work from August on the access way to one hut, leaving only a single access way. One of the original huts is no longer fit for purpose and is due to be removed later in December. The timeline for replacement of this hut and also for additional huts needed to accommodate the increased roll next year is still not clear.

Action: Letter to be re-drafted and sent to local Councillors asking for their assistance. (Post meeting note, letter drafted and sent by email, 13th Dec).

Related to the increased roll is future works to the canteen area, which will include an extension of the serving area. A discussion was had on the length of queues within the canteen. The canteen service are being asked to review how they set up the area, including payment, to help shorten the queues where practicable.

3. Parent Forum Communication

Staffing: The school is now in a position to give all S1's a limited experience with Modern Foreign Languages - i.e. some lessons and support from a Modern Languages teacher. It was recognised by all that whilst this is an improvement is it still not ideal. Mrs Paul will be writing to all S1 parents about Modern Foreign Languages and how it fits into the Broad General Education Phase (S1-S3). Parents asked if limited exposure in S1 would affect course choices in the Senior Phase (S4-S6), Mrs Paul agreed that this aspect would be included in her letter to parents. The job is still being advertised, alongside 7 other vacancies across Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City.

Skills Development: There was a wide ranging discussion about skills development - for example continuing to develop IT skills (e.g. excel graphs, word processing) throughout school, as it appears possible for pupils to avoid being exposed to some of these skills, either through 'choice' or circumstance 'subjects studied'. It was suggested that a dedicated short course leading to qualification could be offered by the school. This led to a wider discussion around the type of qualifications that will be on offer in the future at Kemnay. Alongside the traditional Nationals, Highers, Adv Highers, the school is looking into [foundation apprenticeships](#) and [National Progression Awards](#). The school is open to ideas on other short term courses, such as computer skills. It is a condition within Scottish Education that any course delivered at school must be supervised by a qualified teacher.

4. Attainment Review

Results and Summary from 2017-18: Mrs Paul gave a presentation summarising the key findings from last years (June 2018) SQA /NQ results.

The key information from the slide pack is that attainment is improving across all measures for example;

- In S4 the number of pupils sitting five National 5s is increasing
- In S5 the overall qualification points per pupil is increasing faster than our 'virtual comparator school'
- In S6 the overall qualification points per pupil is outpacing the virtual comparator school and is just ahead of the trend for Aberdeenshire.

- Literacy and Numeracy measures are also improving, either matching pace with the virtual comparator school in S4, and closing the gap on the virtual comparator school in S5.

The improvement is underpinned by activities within the school, that focuses on identifying areas of underachievement and then aiming to provide support to maximise the potential of all pupils, some of these activities are

- Data analysis
- Positive presentation policy
- Easter school/mentoring
- Revision materials
- Parental sessions – stress/exam prep
- Outside speakers/ motivational programmes

Activities to support literacy and numeracy are:

- Aspirational Presentation Policy (Numeracy)
- NQs: Applications, Nat 3, N5 Numeracy for borderline pupils, N5 Numeracy in S5
- BGE: pace and challenge, curriculum architecture
- Whole School Strategy: shared leadership, Improvement Planning, parental engagement, embedding skills
- Renaissance Learning: STAR, Accelerated Reader & Reading Wise
- Library Strategy – across curriculum, focus Lit/Num development, creativity/application of skills

*Virtual Comparator School: A school's performance is heavily influenced by the socio-economic groupings of its pupils, so direct comparisons between neighbouring schools does give a true picture of performance. Instead, a virtual school is created from performance data held in the national database. The virtual school uses the same socio-economic groupings we have at Kemnay. Our school is then compared against this virtual school's performance. The aim is to give a clearer context about both the performance and the future potential for our school.

5. PTA Update

Carol gave an update of the PTA recent activities and upcoming events. There is a bank balance of circa £4000, which includes a recent grant of £300 from Kintore Rotary Club for the school library. In March the PTA are hosting a concert for 'The Bloody Marys' and there is also a Quiz night planned. The PTA will cover the cost of the school's Christmas Tree.

7. Correspondence

Main correspondence was the proposed Aberdeenshire Council harmonised constitution, mentioned above.

8. Next Meeting

The next KAPC meeting will be held on **Tuesday 29th January starting at 7.00pm.**

Any exceptional agenda items to be sent to the PC email address in advance.