

Kemnay Academy Parent Council (KAPC)

Meeting Date: 28th January 2020

Meeting Venue: Staff Room, Kemnay Academy

Present: Bob Jones, Gail Cameron (Principal Guidance Teacher), Jannette McKay, Catriona Skinner, Audrey Henderson, Abby Miller, Allen Denes; Regina Kizis; Fern Patrick (Kemnay Community Council); Carol Sim; Stuart Cambell; Haseeba Jawad

Also in attendance: Lizbeth Paul (Headteacher)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies received: Michelle Meyer, Phil Goby, Oliver Mowatt

2. Approval of Previous Minutes & Housekeeping

December Minutes were proposed by Stuart, and seconded by Catriona.

Update on Actions from October

Close out letter to MSP - Close out letter sent. Action closed.

PTA - Carol informed us that the PTA balance is £3193.90. The PTA will support a raffle at parents nights, but without a committee in place it cannot do more. **Action: Information to be sent to Parents explaining PTA purpose, past success, time commitments etc to be added to the next school newsletter - Mrs Paul, Carol, Bob**

Roll, Busses, Accommodation - No further information. Officers to be invited back for the March meeting. **Action: Pre-meet with Parent Council and school to discuss questions to be asked. Bob, Carol, Mrs Paul**

3. Parent Forum Communication

Excelerate Programme: Members of the Parent Council were invited to attend a conference in Aberdeen on the Excelerate programme. The conference brought together the four schools taking part in the trial, along with business representatives from a number of sectors - including those who have a projected skills shortage, and representatives from The Wood Foundation, including Sir Ian Wood. Bob attended on behalf of the parent council. The Academy has a business liaison officer, paid for by the Wood Foundation, who is tasked with developing stronger links between the school and business. The idea of the programme is to open up new opportunities for pupils through more realistic work or business experience,

developing 'soft skills' and confidence alongside the more traditional practical skills and knowledge, so they are more prepared for life after school.

School Update: The school has been investing in facilities and equipment, based on feedback from pupils. Equipment (New keyboards/electronic drum kits/speakers) and rooms have been upgraded in music. The PE department also has new equipment including yoga mats. Pupils were also asking for more support around Health and Wellbeing, and the school will be continuing to develop this area of support - presentations for pupils and parents on managing exam stress, workshops for pupils, setting up breathing space sessions and discussing topics in PSE.

In response to the increased pupil roll a significant amount of investment has been made in improving learning resources for all pupils. This has included new widescreen monitors in ICT, new furniture in a number of classrooms (ICT/MFL/HWB) and additional IT resources (Chrome books).

4. Achievement, Improvement, School Plan

Mentors for Violence Prevention, MVP: The Parent Council were given an excellent thought provoking presentation by several of the senior MVP mentors (S6 pupils). The presentation took the form of a discussion around an on-line bullying scenario. What **would** you do? What **could** you do? What **would** help? How do **we feel** when we see something like this occurring? **Do we standby?** How can we help?

The mentors were fantastic; confident, articulate, thoughtful young people. The presentation is part of a programme that is currently focussed on S1 and S2 pupils. It is led by the S6's who are in turn supported by MVP Mentors.

Feedback from the S1 and S2 is that they want to do more, to have longer and more frequent sessions with the Mentors. Feedback from the S6 pupil is that they feel their self-confidence has grown, and that in their experience from S1 to S6, the school years are definitely becoming closer, with the MVP programme is helping to do this. It will continue to develop over the year, covering a range of topics beyond on-line bullying. The S6's will return to help train new Mentors in June / August 2020.

School Uniform: Discussion around the school roll. Parents at Kinellar Primary have been given the option to go to Kemnay or Inverurie Academy to help balance out the roll, This then led to a discussion on School uniform - it was commented that some parents were making the choice of Inverurie due to the 'blazers'. Mrs Paul noted that the uniform could be improved in some areas as has been previously highlighted, and that an update could open up opportunities to celebrate the pupils success and achievements in different ways.

We discussed the potential difficulties around changes to a uniform, and how the change may be implemented. It was agreed that the first steps are to investigate what options there

are available, before going into more detail with Parents and Pupils. **Action - The Parent Council asked Mrs Paul to begin investigating. Agenda item for further discussion in March: Mrs Paul.**

Access to School: On the same theme of maximising opportunities for the Academy's young people, we discussed access and transport into and out of Kemnay. Approximately 70% of the School's pupils live outside Kemnay village. After School clubs could co-ordinate lifts (if this doesn't already happen naturally through parents and friends). Mrs Paul said she would put this to the after school groups.

It was felt worthwhile for the Parent Council to work with the Community Council, to see if there is value in jointly making the case for a safe, environmentally sound cycle and or pedestrian route between Kemnay and Kintore. The aim being to give pupils a better option for attending after school clubs / events, or make their way to school independently of parent or public transport availability, and more options for the wider Kemnay community too.

Action: Bob to contact Kemnay community council.

NEXT Meeting - March 10th, 7pm Staff room.