



Since our last meeting the following activities have taken place:

- Publication of HMle Report
- Pending consultation on potential relocation of Willowbank School Senior Phase
- Launch of Barclays Life Skills Programme
- Launch of Equally Safe in School Programme
- Options Information Evenings
- Connect to Kilmaronock
- Intergenerational Projects
- Pupil Empowerment Conference
- Kilmaronock Town Centre Regeneration Project
- Launch of Kilmaronock FC Supporters Club
- Christmas Concert
- Various Fundraising for Charities in run up to Christmas
- Prelim Exams
- Big Sleepout
- S3 Parents' Evening

2. Further Detail

Publication of HMle Report

The inspection report was published by Education Scotland in early December. A copy was also posted on our website. The report can be accessed in full [here](#):

<https://education.gov.scot/media/53ki31rt/stjosephsacademysif031219.pdf>

Press coverage was minimal but could be found online within the Ayrshire Live section of the Daily Record site and in print through the Scottish Catholic Observer.

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/ayrshire/kilmarnock-secondary-school-ranked-satisfactory-21321298>



Pending Consultation on potential relocation of Willowbank School Senior Phase

Earlier this week, Cabinet approved proposals to consult on a review of education provision for children and young people in East Ayrshire who require additional support.

A number of potential proposals were presented to Cabinet for consideration, and these include:

- The expansion of our highly successful Supported Learning Centre Model to new sites in the Kilmarnock area, namely Shortlees Primary, Annanhill/ Park Primary, Grange/ Park Secondary, Onthank Primary and Kilmarnock Academy.
- A statutory consultation as to the positioning of Park School as a standalone specialist provision to a mainstream supported learning centre provision on Grange Campus.
- The expansion of Willowbank School to a further site on the St Joseph's Campus to permit an innovative senior phase centre to best prepare our young adults for transition to adult life. This would also be subject to statutory consultation.

Linda McAulay Griffiths, Head of Education at East Ayrshire Council, advised:

"Inclusion sits at the very heart of these proposals and ultimately, by improving the current educational provision across East Ayrshire, we will enable children to access their education within their local education group.

"Going forward we need more sustainable models for service provision and these proposals are moving towards a more inclusive campus model in education to ensure all of our young learners achieve their full potential.

"By expanding this provision, children with specific educational needs will be able to access their education within their local community. This is an exciting opportunity for children and young people in East Ayrshire.

"The proposal does not state that Park School will be closed, but simply that it will be included in the consultation process and considered within the expansion proposals for the Supported Learning Centre.

"We are aware of that a parental petition has been launched to save Park School, but regrettably, this petition does not accurately reflect the current situation nor the proposals being considered, and we would not wish to cause parents and carers any distress unnecessarily as a consequence of this misinformation.

"It's important to emphasise that this is at the very earliest stage of the process and all parents/carers, children and stakeholders will have an opportunity to participate as part of the statutory consultation process in due course"

In light of the above, school staff do not intend to make any further comment until the formal consultation begins. It can be noted that the Headteachers of Willowbank, St. Joseph's and Park Schools addressed Cabinet and were in favour of moving to formal consultation.

Intergenerational Projects

For the penultimate session with Craigie Care Home residents joined us in school last Tuesday and were entertained by the Junior Musical Theatre Group with Drama excerpts and a good old sing along to songs of the musicals. Our catering staff provided a lovely lunch for our guests and our young people enjoyed the left overs!! Some great relationships have been formed and we hope to continue working with the Care Home after the project has ended.

We have been invited by the Volunteers Centre to take part in the 13 week long Eat Well Age Well pilot project which aims to raise awareness of malnutrition in older people while tackling the concern of social isolation and loneliness. This is a very exciting project which involves Mrs McErlean and her S3 Hospitality class cooking and eating with the older participants while Mrs Ferguson's S3 Drama class will provide some interactive workshops for them. Our young people will certainly enjoy the experience and in doing so will be living out two of our school values Think of Others and Take Part while engaging with the wider community.

Connect to Kilmarnock

At the Local Conversation community event in November which was attended by 10 of our pupils we were asked if we would be a pilot school for a project enabling the voices of young people to be heard in relation to Social Isolation and Loneliness. As a result we are currently engaging with Lorraine Fleming from the Health and Social Care Partnership on their Connect to Kilmarnock event which takes place on 22nd February. At the event the thoughts/ideas of our pupils on this subject will be portrayed through Drama, Voice, Music, Art, Poetry/Stories and Dance. The S3 Learner Participation Class are also working on Mood Walls for the event. The Junior Leadership Team will be act as hosts at the event and will be carrying out a survey of those in attendance.

3. Staffing

The following appointments have been made since our last meeting:

Depute Head Teacher	Miss Angela Quigley
PEF Funded Attendance Assistant	Mrs Catherine Drummond
PEF Funded PT Moderation	Mrs Clare Kelly
Clerical Assistant	Mrs Christine X

The following posts are currently live/out to advert:

PT Social Subjects	Deadline Friday 31 st January
PT Pastoral Care	Deadline Friday 31 st January

The following vacancies exist but are yet to go to advert:

Clerical Assistant

It should also be noted that Mr Kane will be out of school from Monday 3rd to Thursday 6th February inclusive as part of an inspection team. Mrs Shearer, Mr Boyle and Miss Quigley will deputise for Mr Kane. Mr Kane will be contactable during school hours and will be able to check school email outwith school hours.

4. Strategic Matters

Uniform

Stock of wool blazers will not be renewed by local suppliers once their current stock is sold. There are around two hundred wool blazers still in stock. Moving forward, the polyester blazer will be routinely stocked. The school will still allow pupils to wear the wool version and families who prefer the wool blazer should speak to suppliers about buying in advance now, or about the potential for one off orders.

As a school, we are fully committed to supporting family with the cost of uniform items and will continue to do so as and when we are made aware of difficulty in securing a blazer.

Bus Warrant Consultation

Further to enquiries made at the last PC meeting, East Ayrshire finance confirmed that the arrangement to allocate funds for transport is still in place. This is to cover the cost of transport for pupils staying behind after school who live in what was the catchment area for St. Conval's.

Given discussion at the last Parent Council meeting, we launched our consultation on the bus warrant system earlier than intended. The consultation closed recently, and staff are scheduled to review the findings in the coming weeks. It is anticipated that the matter will be brought before the Parent Council at our next meeting in early March.

Sound/Lighting

Sound and Lighting issues in the assembly hall were addressed by contractors in January 2020. In December 2019, an interim solution was implemented by school staff in order to ensure that the school show could go ahead without interruption. We are confident that the long standing issues have been addressed. However, we are now unable to use the hands free microphones as they no longer comply with legislation. We are working with Mitie to try to find a solution to this issue. The hands free microphones were part of the system Mitie installed when the site was opened.

S5/S6 Mock Interviews

We have 19 businesses supporting our S5/6 Mock Interviews on Friday 31st January periods 3, 4 and 5.

1. AVQ management – Anne Queen
2. AVQ management – Mark Rooney
3. Munro Architects – David McCall
4. MKM Building Supplies - Colin Eggo
5. EAC Vibrant Communities – Joe Gallagher
6. SDS – Kate Faulds
7. Schneider Electric - Dougie Thomson
8. Braehead Foods – Stephanie Rothin
9. Kilmarnock Football Team - Grant Moore and Daryl Knapp
10. 16 + Transitions - Margorie Harvey
11. Morgan Stanley - Claire
12. Morgan Stanley - Natalie
13. Morgan Stanley - David
14. Morgan Stanley - Fiona
15. Santander - Richie
16. Digby Brown - Jan Laidler
17. Army – Richard McCaffery

18. Count on Us - Chris McKenna

Every S5/6 pupil will be allocated a 15 minute interview (10 minute interview and 5 minute warm up). They will be asked to report to the street before their interview. Times will be organised by Wednesday 29th Jan and shared with pupils.

We have an additional 9 interview slots which we allocated to S4 pupils likely to be leaving school and facing interviews.

Parental Guides

Last session we worked to develop single page subject guides for parents/carers. This session, we are working on one page guides in relation to Pupil Support. The guides are as follows:

- Anti-Bullying
- Homework
- Social Media
- Mental Wellbeing
- Catholic Ethos
- Positive Destinations

Parents' Evenings booking system and mapping

We will move to an online booking system for session 2020/21 and in light of parental feedback. We are also in the process of procuring and/or creating better signage for Parents' Evenings.

Catholic Ethos

Mr Tomb has created over one hundred crucifixes which will be placed in the centre of each teaching room in the school. It is highly unusual for Catholic school not to have a crucifix in each room. Mr Kane and SLT are due to meet with our chaplains in early February to finalise plans for our Vision, Values and Aims consultation. These plans will be shared with the Parent Council at our next meeting.

6. Forthcoming Events

Dates stated are given in good faith. External providers may alter dates at short notice.

- P7/S1 Information Evening – Tuesday 28th January 2020
- S4 Parents' Evening – Tuesday 4th February 2020
- February Weekend
 - School Closed to pupils Friday 7th, Monday 10th, Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th February
 - Staff INSET days on Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th February
- Post Inspection Meeting – Tuesday 18th February 6pm – 7pm
- Outreach Parents' Evening – St. Sophia's – Wednesday 19th February, Time TBC
- Outreach Parents' Evening – St. Patrick's – Wednesday 4th March, Time TBC
- Ash Wednesday – Wednesday 26th February 2020
- Next Parent Council Meeting – Monday 9th March 2020