

Parent Council – School Report

Monday 16th September 2024



1. General Update

New Session

Operationally, the school is functioning well following our return in August. All new S1 and new enrolments can access various systems as necessary. Parents/Carers were sent ParentPay, Satchel:One and Annual Data check forms. School Photographs were taken on Thursday 22nd August, with purchase through Tempest still possible. NHS Immunisations and follow up immunisations are also well under way.

The timetable is operating as expected and the start of term has gone well.

Park School Consultation

East Ayrshire Council Cabinet has approved formal consultation to consider whether or not the current temporary arrangement should be made permanent. As you are aware, Park School Senior Phase have been based here since August 2023.

The full paper considered by cabinet can be found [here](#).

Notional dates for two public consultation events have been given within the paper, with one event here and another at Grange Campus. Dates given are provisional, but once finalised, will be shared with all stakeholder groups. Parent Council attendance is strongly encouraged at one or both events.

Senior Award Ceremony

We held our Senior Award Ceremony on Tuesday 10th September, and were delighted to welcome parents/carers, wider family members, staff and formal pupils to the school. The Inaugural Fr. Martin Chambers award was one of many given out on the night, and we thank all staff, families and pupils for their attendance when celebrating the success of our learners.

Car Park

Parent/Carer use of the Car Park remains an issue. We have tentatively approached the site owner to scope viability in terms of barrier based entry beyond the first pedestrian crossing. Albeit, it should be noted that there is no contractual obligation on the part of the owner to facilitate this.

Double parking and use of designated accessible parking bays remain the main issues. We will continue to engage with partner services and to encourage responsible use of the Car Park via communication with parents/carers.

Extra-Curricular Activity

An extensive [programme of extra-curricular](#) activity has been shared with parents/carers in advance of the September weekend and as promised. Pupils are always advised to check with staff in advance of advertised sessions, as on occasion, sessions are cancelled, either due to low uptake or because of other staff commitments. Staff are delighted to offer an extensive programme beyond what takes place during the formal school day.

Paris Trip, Sky Academy, Caritas Investiture and forthcoming Trips/Events

At the time of writing, a large group of S3 pupils are in Paris with our Modern Languages department. Generation Hope. Pupils are scheduled to return in the early hours of Wednesday 18th.

Our S2 cohort recently attended a Sky Academy trip with our Maths department and all sixty-one S6 Caritas pupils joined their peers from across the Diocese of Galloway for their Mass of Investiture with Bishop Dougan at Queen Margaret Academy, Ayr.

In general terms, trips/excursions become less frequent between October and Easter. However, we are taking another S1-S3 group back to Generation Hope in late May, and there is another Sky Academy trip for S3 in December.

Almost all other activities whereby pupils are extracted from class will link directly to the curriculum. For example, Higher RMPS pupils recently spent the day at St. Matthew's Academy with those taking Higher RMPS from across the diocese. Our Advanced Higher Historians will soon undertake a visit to Glasgow as part of their course.

Other trips and activities for S1-S3 will generally take place after Easter and during the SQA exam diet.

SQA Exam Diet 2025

SQA delayed release of their exam diet dates until well into September. We can now confirm that the SQA exam diet is scheduled to run from Monday 28th April 2025 to Friday 30th May 2025. The full timetable can be accessed here – [SQA Exam Timetable 2025](#).

Prelims

Prelims will take place in late November, early December. A provisional diet is in place, but cannot be issued until presentation level decisions are taken shortly after the October break. Pupils will be in receipt of a prelim timetable shortly after the October break holiday.

Reporting and Parents' Evenings

This information was shared via the school app, within the Extra-Curricular information message. Parents' Nights and Reporting dates for the year ahead are as shown below.

PARENTS' EVENINGS	WRITTEN REPORTS
S5/6 PARENTS' EVENING - <u>10/10/2024</u>	S2 REPORTS ISSUED - 23/10/2024
S3 PARENTS' EVENING - <u>12/11/2024</u>	S4 REPORTS ISSUED - 13/11/2024
S2 PARENTS' EVENING - <u>05/12/2024</u>	S3 REPORTS ISSUED - 05/02/2025
S1 PARENTS' EVENING - <u>07/01/2025</u>	S5/6 REPORTS ISSUED - 12/03/2025
S4 PARENTS' EVENING - <u>06/02/2025</u>	S1 REPORTS ISSUED - 07/05/2025

Improvement Planning and Calendar

The School Improvement plan for this session can be found [here](#) .

Priorities are dictated to a degree by National and local priorities. Department improvement plans held internally often better capture day to day improvement targets. Our priorities can be summarised as follows.

- Strategic approach to use of Pupil Voice data to inform improvement
- Continue to embed ARONA mechanisms for the lowest 20% of grades returned
- Attendance, both procedures and by way of holding parents/carers and partner services more accountable
- Year three of whole school learning and teaching focus on Differentiation
- Re-establish collaboration with the other two Kilmarnock Schools in terms of Moderation
- BGE Assessment, rigour, tracking and challenge

Attainment

Scottish Government are due to update the INSIGHT system by late September. A full overview of school level attainment will be shared after this data is released to schools in October. However, it is worth noting that performance at Higher level has broken all previously known school records.

UCAS/Pathways Event

We held our annual Senior Phase pathways event on the evening of Thursday 5th September and were joined by various representatives of Universities, Colleges and Employers. Some of our invitees did not respond to our correspondence. Initial feedback appears very positive. In addition, S6 pupils have benefited from various input during PSE, including specific sessions delivered by Mr Marr. We encourage all S6 to adhere to given deadlines in terms of Personal Statement completion.

S1 Mass of Welcome and PLT/JLT Investiture

We were joined by Fr. Jim for Mass on Thursday 29th August with our new S1 cohort. The following day, Fr. Kevin joined us as we gathered in the Oratory for our Mass of Investiture with our newly elected Pupil Leadership Team. Both Masses were reverent and prayerful and we wish our new S1 every blessing in their time here with us.

2. Staffing

Technical Teacher (Full Time)

We have now advertised this post four times without success, with the most recent closing date having passed just yesterday. The previous post holder has moved on to a position outwith education. We have one Higher Graphic Communication class, one S4 National 5 Graphic Communication class and one S4 Practical Woodworking class. There are no other qualified teachers of Technical within our staffing.

We have secured release of a teacher from Kilmarnock Academy to cover four of six Higher lessons, all S4 Graphics lessons and two of four Practical Woodworking lessons.

Given the shortfall in delivery in both Higher and N5 Practical Woodworking, we will, this week, advise families of the situation and support re-completion of options if learners wish to do so.

S1-S3 sections will be taught by generalist supply teachers until such times as we can secure a Technical teacher.

Teacher of Chemistry – 0.4FTE (Mondays and Tuesdays)

The previous post holder secured a post elsewhere during the last week of term before summer. We have interviewed and identified a preferred candidate, with pre-employment checks ongoing at the time of writing. In the short term, we have secured Science teacher cover on both days.

Classroom Assistant Vacancies

We did appoint to a vacancy before summer, but over summer, the preferred candidate withdrew. During summer, another classroom assistant moved on. At the moment, we are relying on bank staff when available. One of the two posts closed to applicants recently, the other has not been advertised. Internal re-allocation of resource is minimising impact on learners.

Clerical Assistant

A preferred candidate was identified via interview and pre-employment checks are ongoing as per protocol.