



Kilmarnock Academy

Parent Council Meeting

5th February 2024

Conference Room, Kilmarnock Academy

Present: David Rose, Stephen Coyle, Donna Rae, Aileen Baillie, Jen Graham, Fiona Anderson, Carol Macinnes Kane, Laura McChristie, Lynsey Kerr, Allana Simpson, Lorna Baird, Angela Brownlie, Robert Joseph, Allan Reid, Neil Ingram (Councillor), Graham Boyd (Councillor), Graham Barton (Councillor)

Focus 6 – Digital Wellbeing – Lorna Baird

The parent council were taken through an update about cyber awareness and safety online by LB. With internet safety day the following day (6th Feb) PC Cotton will also be covering some key information at assemblies' over the week. LB explained how important digital wellbeing is for young people, explaining the impacts of not only at this stage, but also future career stages. The school will also be providing information assisting young people where to turn to if something does go wrong online. The school is pushing to achieve the Digital Wellbeing award, which is the first initiative of its kind in Scotland. The award is open to both Primary and Secondary schools and consists of a 4-step programme. The overall aim is to roll this out to all schools on the campus in the future. Currently we are in the self-evaluation phase, which will focus on what is being done well and where current gaps are. For further information you can find this at www.digitalschoolsaward.co.uk. During discussion GB asked if the school advise parents of new online apps that young people are accessing. DR advised that in such a fast-paced environment it would be impossible to do so, however reminded everyone that there is a sub section on the Safer Schools app which provides advice to both parents and young people.

Christmas Fayre – David Rose

DR provided an update on the Christmas Fayre and all agreed it went well and there was a good atmosphere. There were lessons learned around the smooth running of the evening and the parent council agreed there were things we could do better for next year. Planning for this year's event will start earlier than ever before and all agreed this would assist.

Parent Steering Group – Stephen Coyle

The last meeting was in late December, SC gave the parent council an update on what was covered at the meeting, including the school app, capital programme and information on the Hayward and other reviews that have been considered. With over 71 key recommendations SC didn't cover in full details, however the parent council did discuss the recommendation that would see changes to the current S4 exams. DR did speak positively about these proposals but assured the committee that such changes take a considerable time to implement and if and when these would be implemented it would be a phased approach. With timescales of c 2029 before curriculum changes DR summarised by saying both he and his teachers were excited by some of the changes proposed and the improvements would be a good way forward.

Respect Me – Allana Simpson

AS gave the parent council an update on the respect me programme which we discussed last year. The pc was shown a first draft of a video that had been created by S2 drama and then discussed some additions. AS explained that the school forum have come up with a suggestion to assist with reporting. This would allow young people to write down concerns anonymously and the respect me ambassadors would review and signpost to the relevant support teachers.

AOCB – David Rose

DR provided an update that 100 devices which are currently not working, or require upgrading are being swapped out on Thursday this week (8th Feb) This is part of a refresh programme.

All water coolers except 2 are currently operations. The 2 out of commission have plumbing issues, however the school and FM are aware of these and will work to resolve.

At the time of the meeting the parent council asked if there had been any other update on the ARA proposals re subsidised buses to campus. The update provided on the night by the councillors was that ARA had committed to consultation to look at solutions however no changes for the upcoming school year from August this year.

Since the meeting there has been subsequent communications via the school app. Parent Council would ask all parents to review this update and to provide your feedback to the survey that has been distributed.

The next parent council meeting will be held on Monday 4th March at 6.30pm in the conference room, Kilmarnock Academy.

If you have anything you'd like to bring to the attention of the parent council, please get in touch by emailing kilmarnockacademyparentcouncil@gmail.com .