



# Kilmarnock Academy

## Parent Council Meeting

12<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Conference Room, Kilmarnock Academy

**Present:** David Rose, Angela Brownlie, Louise Kelly, Katy Noakes, Stephen Coyle, Donna Rae, Aileen Baillie, Clare Purewal, Elaine Paton, Fiona Anderson, Jen Graham, Julie Connor, Laura McChristie, Lynsey Kerr, Robert Joseph, Councillor Graham Boyd

**Apologies:** Allan Reid, Carol MacInnes, Councillor Peter Mabon, Councillor Neal Ingram

### Welcome and Apologies – Stephen Coyle

SC welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting it had been a while since our last meeting in November. Everyone was thanked for changing the day and date of this meeting due to a number of reasons.

### Parent Steering Group Update – Stephen Coyle

SC took the attendees through the steering group updates from the meeting the previous day. Topics included school meals information, cyber security and the strategic update. Discussion around the school meal deal highlighted that if a young person does not opt for one item from each of the categories, that items are charged at an individual level, which could result in higher costs. The parent council would like to remind parents to speak to their young people about this offer. £1.08 is the total cost, however certain items must be selected, for example it's a carton of water, not the 500ml bottle that is included. DR is going to suggest improvements to labelling back to EAC. For more information on the meal deal, menus and price list, parents can visit the catering website [here](#).

DR advised that the new payment system implementation has gone well, with only a few teething issues around speed. He reminded the attendees that the overdraft facility for parent pay has been limited and that if there are insufficient funds in a young person's account that they will be able to get a main meal, however, will not be able to get snacks.

GB advised that the strategic update regarding budget is mainly centred around transportation with further reviews taking place considering ASN transport (assisted support needs). Music tuition is fully funded by EAC leisure trust and there will be no change to the provision currently provided as part of this transition.

### Parent Improvement Plan Capturing Attainment – Louise Kelly

LK described the attainment at KA as super and spoke passionately that last year 98% of young people attained level 3, including literacy and numeracy, which is c. 20% higher than all other schools in the authority. The average within EAC is 78%. Attainment has increased from 95% in 2023 and 96% in 2022. Louise took us through her strategy which has 5 different approaches. Highlighting early intervention is key, Louise is planning on reviewing 3<sup>rd</sup> year commencing in April. Strong links with PTPS and the whole school focus is ensuring attainment is embedded within the school and everyone is working well together.

### Parent Improvement Plan Respectful Relationships – Katy Noakes

Over the past few years, the school has acquired a number of visible consistencies which emphasis behaviours and expectations of young people and teaching staff alike. Katy took the attendees through 3 new visible consistencies which centred around casual conversations young people were having in groups

around the school (not in classes). Good discussion was had around the proposals and feedback was given around the option the members felt best fitted the request.

KN then explained that restorative conversations, which helps move young people on from breakdowns in communication relationships. Such conversations that would have involved KM have decreased by 28% in the last year. Pupils and staff are now having these restorative conversations themselves without the need for independent involvement. This is a positive step when others are now feeling empowered to have these discussions, with training for staff and new prefects available each year.

### **Parent Support Sheet – Elaine Paton**

Having recently joined the parent council, EP has identified that some parents will not be familiar with certain terms of reference used in school updates. Excellent discussion was had on the evening around the creation of a reference sheet for parents to help with this transition. DR took a list of terms to be included within the information sheet. DR did remind us that there is a lot of information shared at the transition events and AB added that the school blog contains various updates. We acknowledged that as a parent the self-service nature of information finding at secondary school is different to primary, however parents should consider reviewing the school app, [school blog](#) or [school handbook](#) in the first instance. If you are still unsure of information, please contact us at the parent council or the school office.

### **AOB – David Rose**

#### **Litter in NFL area**

Litter in the surrounding area of the school was discussed again at the NFL community council meeting. DR is reaching out to the relevant department at EAC to have a meeting with them and to cover this at school assemblies. When highlighted previously the school requested more refuse bins to be placed within the area, however this was declined as the council were unable to commit to regular emptying of those bins. We ask that as parents you ask your young people to hold onto any rubbish and dispose of this in an appropriate manner, even if that means bringing it back to school after lunch/break.

Families living in the NFL area can also participate in a monthly litter picking which is run by the community council on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month, the meeting place is at the keystore. For more information on this please visit their Facebook page, or contact Councillor Graham Boyd.

#### **Vaping in corridors**

Vaping in corridors was discussed at the meeting after a number of reports from parents. The area in question is a stairwell which isn't covered by CCTV. This is not a new problem, and the school are actively working through this, which sees the group of individuals moving from area to area when it's uncovered. Positively each time this group is moved on the numbers appear to reduce.

#### **Parent Improvement Plan carry over**

Due to postponement of meetings and absence we have a number of PIP topics which will roll forward into upcoming meetings, these include Respect Me, Microsoft Showcase, Family Learning and ESAS update.

The next parent council meeting will be held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 6.30pm in the conference room, Kilmarnock Academy. If you would like to join the parent council, please come along on the evening.

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](mailto:kilmarnockacademyparentcouncil@gmail.com), you can also keep up to date with updates on the Kilmarnock Academy Parent Council Facebook page or on our new X page KilmarnockAcaPC (formally Twitter).