



# Kilmarnock Academy

## Parent Council Meeting

12<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Conference Room, Kilmarnock Academy

**Present:** Angela Brownlie, Stephen Coyle, Donna Rae, Aileen Baillie, Allan Reid, Carol MacInnes, Clare Purewal, Elaine Paton, Fiona Anderson, Jen Graham, Julie Connor, Laura McChristie, Graham Johnston, Fiona Milne, Councillor Graham Boyd, Councillor Neal Ingram

**Apologies:** Lynsey Kerr

### Welcome and Apologies – Stephen Coyle

SC welcomed everyone to the final meeting of this session and gave apologies from those unable to attend.

### Parent Steering Group Update – Stephen Coyle

SC took the attendees through the updates from the Steering Group. He highlighted that from 1<sup>st</sup> April, those in parent councils across Scotland may need to have full PVG checks. The local authority is awaiting confirmation on the exact requirements, as there appears to be some contradictions between the advice given and the legislation. There was a lot of discussion around this point at the steering group and once more is known it will be shared with the parent councils. It is worth noting that several members of our parent council already hold PVGs.

Head of education has invited representatives from KA to join a meeting with the local authority and council procurement team to align on large scale procurement. Bus hire was an example given where different schools are spending more than others for trips. The purpose of the meeting is to get consistency across all establishments.

Litter around schools was also covered at the steering group, with an initiative that had been supported pre covid being relaunched next year supported by the school and the local authority. Councillor Boyd explained further about how this could work with the attendees and that the programme will be for early years, primary and secondary schools. Councillor Boyd and Councillor Ingram will be trained as part of this to help encourage engagement. Litter has been a recent discussion point during our meetings and both councillors would like to encourage all young people and community members to engage in community initiatives.

The transition of music tuition has now been successfully moved to East Ayrshire Leisure. Feedback has been positive, and all staff have also now transferred over.

### General updates – Angela Brownlie

The strategic update on repairs is underway. There is nothing outstanding within Kilmarnock Academy that is not already on the plan for regular maintenance.

KA Inspection – The recent inspection focused mainly on literacy; however other subjects were involved. AB explained that it was intense, with a lot of observations for some teachers involved. There were several strengths noted including focus groups being positive, young people speaking highly of the school, staff and their progression. The inspectors felt the Kilmarnock Standard and relationships at the school were very strong. Active learning, effective use of resources and good engagement from learners were also noted. A strong sense of respect and engagement, with young people taking the lead in their learning. As always

there are a few take aways which will be factored into the improvement plan for next session for example ensuring the Kilmarnock Standard is being equally applied throughout the school.

### **Improvement Plan Review – Fiona Milne**

FM is temporarily acting depute head teacher at KA and she gave an overview of the Improvement plan for the full session. The group were given questions to review and feedback on. Working in groups the parent council feedback has been collated and will be used to help shape plans for next session.

### **PEF review – Graham Johnston**

GJ provided an update on PEF, where he reminded everyone how PEF is allocated based on the SIMD profile of the schools' pupils. The groups were taken through how the school has used the funding throughout the 2024/25 year. Successes around improved attendance, community engagement, family sports evenings and other activities were discussed. GJ explained that with some funding there have also been some whole school resources secured such as the new computer suite, life skills cooking and the fab lab. Staff are currently reviewing the impact on PEF and the parent body will be involved in having a say on where resources are allocated for next year. This will come via the school app, with parents actively encouraged to complete this short form.

### **School Updates – Angela Brownlie**

There is a current uniform drive currently taking place, for anyone who has still good to use school uniform that your young person/persons have outgrown, details of this can be found on the school app/blog.

The school are actively considering a Breakfast club to commence next session, where opening of the senior dining area from c. 0800/0810 in the morning is being looked at. If anyone has links to support that could either regularly donate to this venture, or provide financial support for this, please contact the school directly, or email us at [kilmarnockacademyparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:kilmarnockacademyparentcouncil@gmail.com). Please note, this is not confirmed yet, if agreed this will be communicated fully from the school through official channels.

Angela gave a brief update on Mr Rose and the sudden change to Loudoun Academy just ahead of the Easter break. At present it is unconfirmed when Mr Rose will return to Kilmarnock Academy, however Mrs Brownlie will keep us updated.

There are a few staffing interviews taking place as we get to the end of the school year. On such interview that has taken place is for a new campus cop. PC Cotton has done a tremendous job; however, the role does rotate around, and AB was able to confirm that our new campus cop PC Scott Sclater will be joining PC Cotton for shadowing before the summer break. PC Sclater has been a community police officer within New Farm Loch for several years and is looking forward to supporting the school next term.

Exams have been going well this year, with no significant issues highlighted. Mrs Brownlie expressed her thanks and respect for the new S3 to S4 prefects who have done a great job covering whilst study leave and exams take place.

### **AOB – Stephen Coyle**

Clarification around school uniform for boys was sought, regarding shorts. AB confirmed that school shorts are allowed, however asked that no sports shorts are worn as part of uniform.

Transport – ARA have confirmed the engineering works for safer walking route from North Kilmarnock is now completed. They are still speaking to Stagecoach around volume of users and will monitor this when the subsidised transportation stops this summer. The parent council are disappointed at the situation; however, we have actively engaged at all opportunity with EAC/ARA to try and change direction, however this hasn't been successful. Attendance, lateness, wellbeing and other concerns around this removal of service will be monitored and discussed at our future meetings as it is implemented.

Councillor Boyd advised that the community council elections are due to take place in June. He explained that being involved in your local community council is a great opportunity for senior pupils to get involved in, particularly if they are interested in politics, or applying to college/university. If you don't live in New Farm Loch, there may be a community council or residents association in your location, and he would actively encourage young people to get involved.

Stephen closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their participation this season and gave a special thanks to Aileen Baillie, who after many years of parent council involved through primary and secondary education with her family, attended her final meeting with us this evening. Thank you for all your efforts, Aileen.

The next parent council meeting will be held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 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 X page KilmarnockAcaPC (formally Twitter).