



Kilmarnock Academy

Parent Council Meeting

Monday 7th September 2026, 6.30pm

Conference Room, Kilmarnock Academy

Present: David Rose (HT), Stephen Coyle, Elaine Paton, Carol MacInnes, Jen Graham, Julie Connor, Karen Paterson, Allan Reid, Claire Brands, Donna Rae, Clare Purewal, Lynsey Kerr, Claire-Louise Davidson, Graham Boyd (Councillor), Neal Ingram (Councillor), Angela Brownlie (DHT)

Apologies: Laura McChristie

In Attendance: Carmen Hume and Lauren Stevenson (item 7a); Catrina O'Neill (item 7d)

1. Welcome and apologies – Stephen Coyle

Stephen welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided apologies for those unable to attend as above.

2. Annual Report of Parent Council –Stephen Coyle

Stephen provided a reflection of the previous year's work by the Parent Council. He noted that many of the meetings focused on areas of the school improvement plan which are showcased at each meeting for parental consideration and input. Topics included:

- Cost of the school day: activities and initiatives that are underway to support young people and families.
- CELT programme: for pupils within the care system and ways to provide support for them.
- Skill Development Scotland: work to support young people into positive leaver destinations
- School transport in relation to the (now complete) reconfiguration of the bus bay as a drop off area.
- Use of AI technology and application with the school learning environment.
- Design of the new tracking report for S1-S3
- Other relevant school issues including toilet hygiene and equipment.

David noted that this was a considerable list and would like to be able to share the work of the PC more widely.

Action: Stephen to share his report with David. (SC/DR)

3. Appointment of Office Bearers

Both Stephen and Donna had indicated their wishes to step down from their current role as Chair and Secretary. As such, Stephen proposed Elaine as Chair, seconded by Donna and Karen. This proposal was approved by the meeting.

Stephen offered to provide Vice Chair support, and this was also approved.

As there had been no nominations for role of secretary, Stephen proposed that this was undertaken as a rolling programme by parent members or that a digital/AI system was explored to record the meeting to aid note taking. It was agreed to explore both options.

Donna offered to provide anyone interested with support about the role.

As Stephen passed the Chair to Elaine, she thanked both Stephen and Donna for their support and leadership to the Parent Council during their tenures.

4. Selection of Parent Council Members

All members were selected as PC members. However, the meeting considered the spread of year groups represented, noting that for the second year, there had been no new parents joining the Parent Council from S1.

It was agreed to undertake some targeted promotion to S1 parents through the school app and to utilise the Chair annual report into a "You Said, We Did" type of feedback. Other suggestions included a PC info leaflet to be included with the S1 and S2 tracking reports, highlighting the differences between primary and secondary school parent councils and raising awareness of the PC through the school app and Instagram, including a photograph!

Action: consider materials to be used to promote the PC and encourage new members (EP, DR, AB)

5. Issues Raised by members of Parent Forum

David explained the complement of the Parent Forum, and from which the Parent Council is representative of this wider group. All parents and carers of a young person enrolled at Kilmarnock Academy is a member of the parent forum and is welcome to observe a Parent Council meeting.

He acknowledged that there is a need to communicate more widely with the wider parent population and the meeting discussed opportunities for this including space on the school app, blog and school email.

The PC constitution is also due for review and will be brought back to the next meeting.

Action: all members to review current constitution (All)

6. Meeting Dates

The Parent Council agreed to the proposed dates of first Monday of each month, with exception of May which will be Tuesday 4th May. There will be no meetings held in January and April due to school holidays.

It was agreed to bring the December meeting forward from 7th December to 30th November to allow for final preparation of the bottle stall for the Christmas Fayre

7. School Update

a) Introduction of new Head Prefects

Lauren and Carmen explained the selection process for the new Head Prefects and the deputy head prefect team, giving 6 in total. They also explained their role which is initially focusing on supporting the new S1s. There is a smaller prefect complement this year than in past.

They recognised the need for full school approach and to act as role models. They have implemented a suggestion box to help with this – note that this is separate from the suggestion/contact request box for Pupil support team.

It was acknowledged that their involvement in showing the S1s around the school had helped to support recognition and approach from the younger pupils.

Following a question, it was confirmed that the wearing of blazers for S4 and S5 is advisory and compulsory for S6. The school has a surplus of blazers for distribution or funding to purchase to help support with costs.

Lauren and Carmen were thanked for attending and wished them well during their year ahead.

b) Draft parent improvement plan consultation

Angela shared the draft plan for the parent council meetings, developed following the May meeting with the interactive Mentimeter session. She noted that other staff members will attend to present some of the topics as well as the leading DHT.

There was also a brief discussion relating to the Christmas Fayre as plans are underway. Angela shared the flyer for promotion through the Facebook page. The meeting discussed the possibility of increasing

the number of stalls available to encourage wider community participation. The meeting also felt that £15 was insufficient, though it was Lynsey noted that another school had increased to £25 which had resulted in poor uptake.

Action: share updated member list for inclusion in the plan (EP/AB)

c) Brief Overview of Results

David presented a new infographic demonstrating the school's leaver performance. This followed the sharing of a similar approach by another school which Carol had shared. Results were positive for KA and more detail will be provided at the October meeting.

It was noted by Cllr Boyd that a gap year does not count towards a positive leaver destination.

d) Mental Health Resources for Parents (C O'Neill)

Catrina presented and demonstrated a new website of resources for parents to help them to support young people with mental health concerns. The site is still under development, and she is keen for parental input and comments on topics, ease of use, content etc.

The aim is to have a single place for information for the main issues received by some of the partner groups e.g. The Exchange. It is applicable to all school ages, but in discussion, it was noted that stress and anxiety from exams would not be applicable to younger pupils and older pupils may not realise to check under that heading for help.

There is also a practical step section for those experiencing mental health issues due to housing, heating, food poverty etc. Cllr Ingram suggested adding links to Citizens Advice to this section.

There was a request to highlight the resource over the Festive period, particularly for managing grief. Catrina will add this to the regular bulletin that is issued to highlight that pressure at that time of year.

In response to a question, she confirmed that the resource applies to all and not targeted at the parent of a young person with mental health worries.

Catrina also has a remit for substance use and intends to train some young people to provide support at parent events to raise awareness of this in the future.

Action: Parents were asked to review the site content and share feedback using the QR codes previously circulated. (All)

8. AOCB

a) 27/28 Holidays

David advised that the term dates for academic year 27/28 were agreed by Cabinet last week and are available at the following link. [School holidays · East Ayrshire Council](#). The consultation gave an overall majority response of a move to a two-week October break (option 3) and this is now reflected in the link and it was communicated to families via the school app earlier in the day.

Donna asked elected members to raise concerns on the timing of the consultation and the way it was disseminated. This had caused some frustration by wider parent forum, particularly noticeable on the KAPC facebook pages.

Action: Cllrs Boyd and Ingram to pass concerns back to EAC with regards the consultation process.

b) Apps for Maths

David provided an overview of the differences and similarities between maths and apps for maths. He also confirmed that Apps for Maths will not be made available to S3 classes this year. Please see appendix for detailed information.

c) Mobile phone policy

Kilmarnock Academy operate a 'Bag and Box it' for classes, supported by all teachers and SLT. The Scottish Government are undergoing a consult on banning in school or not. David confirmed that he had completed this consultation last week as a HT. He stated that he would not be taking any further action till this is concluded, as this informs the way forward, or if not, advised as such. He took the opportunity to highlight the consultation with the PC to share and seek views. Please see below received from SG:

“Further to our email of 24 August 2025, I am pleased to confirm that the Scottish Government has today opened its consultation to inform future legislation on restricting mobile phones in schools. The consultation is open for responses until 17 November 2026 and is available from [Consultation on restricting mobile phones in Scotland's schools](#). We would be grateful if you would consider the consultation questions and provide a response using the methods contained within the consultation document. Please also share the consultation information with any individual, organisation or network who you would have an interest.”

Action: PC members to consider and submit response to the above as a parent council (All)

Elaine thanked everyone for their participation and closed the meeting.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next parent council meeting will be held on Monday 5th October 6.30pm. 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, you can also keep up to date with updates on the Kilmarnock Academy Parent Council Facebook page.

Appendix – Maths and Apps of Maths

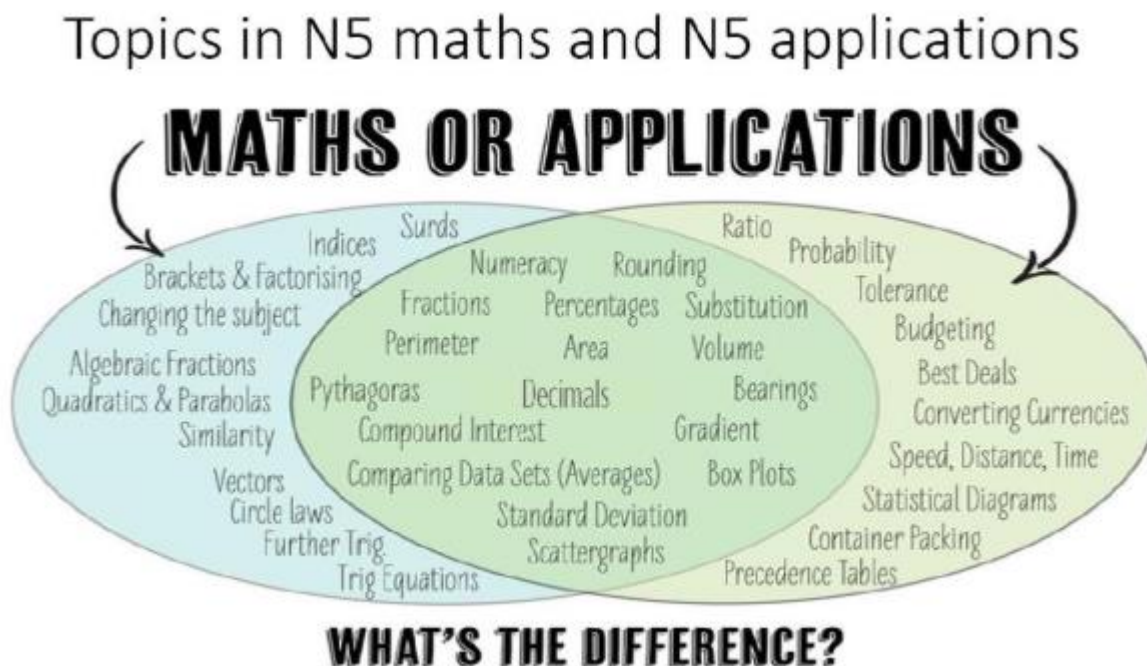
Below provides a summary of the difference between traditional Maths and App for S4/ 5 /6 for information. It is also included in the Kilmarnock Academy prospectus 2026, available on the blog: [Link here.](#)

National 5 Mathematics focuses on more abstract theory including complex algebra, quadratics and trigonometry. Progression to Higher Maths and for STEM careers.

National 5 Applications of Mathematics focuses on practical, real-world skills like personal finance (budgeting, wages, tax, currency exchange), statistics (probability, and data handling) and measurements. Progression to Higher Apps which looks further into finance and statistics. (I would recommend this for any pupil including STEM due to practical applications to many jobs and 'adulting maths' with mortgages, savings etc.)

Both N5 courses cover some similar topics such as fractions and percentages, volume, standard deviation and comparing data sets.

The Venn diagram below is good for showing the different topics and the crossover.



Our BGE courses set pupils up for attempting both N5 courses and we stream during S3 into pathways for attempting Maths, Apps or both in S4. We have an additional period in S4 to help pupils learn all the content and have the opportunity to sit both exams if they wish and keep their progression into Higher open.