

Kilmarnock Academy Parent Council

Head Teacher Briefing: Session 2025/26 Highlights Summary

Overview

Throughout the session, Parent Council discussions remained closely aligned to the school's improvement priorities, with a particular focus on:

- Attainment and achievement
- Attendance and engagement
- Cost of the School Day
- Inclusion and wellbeing
- Digital learning and Artificial Intelligence
- Curriculum innovation
- Positive destinations and employability
- School values and culture
- Parent communication
- Community and campus developments
- P7 transition and family engagement

The Parent Council continued to support consultation activities, provide feedback on proposed developments and celebrate the successes of pupils, staff and the wider school community.

Raising Attainment and Achievement

The Parent Council received updates throughout the year on school attainment and performance measures. Focus has been placed on improving numeracy outcomes through curriculum developments including Applications of Maths pathways.

Attendance and Timekeeping

Attendance remained a key school improvement priority throughout the session. The Parent Council received detailed presentations on attendance monitoring, interventions and timekeeping.

Particular discussion focused on the impact of transport changes. Whilst concerns had initially been raised following the removal of dedicated school transport, data shared with the Parent Council indicated improving timekeeping, with lateness reducing and no significant negative trend emerging. The role of the Killie Café and revised travel arrangements were recognised as factors supporting improvement.

Cost of the School Day

Cost of the School Day activities continued to be a significant strength across the session. The school highlighted a wide range of supports available for young people and families. A significant achievement was the national recognition of the school's work, with Kilmarnock Academy selected as one of only 18 schools in Scotland to represent the secondary sector at a national Cost of the School Day event.

Inclusion, Wellbeing and Equity

CELT Programme

The Parent Council received updates on the CELT (Care Experienced and Kinship Support) Programme, which has continued to develop through its second year. The programme supports young people with care experience and kinship care backgrounds through targeted activities, relationship building and wellbeing support.

Equally Safe at School

Updates were provided on the school's Equally Safe at School (ESAS) programme, which focuses on positive relationships, gender safety, respect and inclusion. Staff training, pupil consultation, curriculum activities and awareness campaigns have supported the programme throughout the year. The launch of the "No Excuse for Abuse" campaign helped reinforce expectations around respectful behaviour and language.

Digital Learning, Innovation and AI

One of the most innovative areas discussed during the session was the school's use of Artificial Intelligence and digital learning technologies. The Parent Council received a presentation outlining how staff and pupils are using various tools. Staff have also completed AI for Educators training through the Microsoft Showcase programme. Parents welcomed the school's proactive and responsible approach to integrating technology into learning and teaching.

Building upon previous recognition as a Promethean Ambassador School, the school is progressing work towards the Microsoft Showcase School framework and wider meta-skills development.

Curriculum Innovation and Skills Development

S1 Personal Pathways

The Parent Council received an overview of the revised S1 Personal Pathway Programme. The model now enables pupils to follow one pathway throughout the year, allowing greater depth and personalisation.

Employability and Positive Destinations

The Parent Council received detailed information regarding labour market intelligence and World of Work from SDS, employability pathways and positive destination performance. The school reported strong positive destination outcomes compared to comparator schools and highlighted continued targeted support for young people requiring additional interventions. Partnerships with employers, colleges and industry continue to expand opportunities available to pupils. Key sectors discussed included engineering, renewables and food and drink industries linked to the Ayrshire Growth Deal.

Reporting and Parent Communication

One of the clearest examples of Parent Council influence during the session was the ongoing review of BGE Tracking Reports. Parent Council were consulted at several stages, reviewing draft formats and offering feedback that directly informed final changes. The revised reporting model now combines paper reports with QR-code access to more detailed subject-specific feedback. A commitment was made to evaluate the new format following implementation.

Community Partnerships and Campus Developments

Bus Bay and Traffic Management: A significant operational focus throughout the year concerned transport arrangements and the proposed redevelopment of the campus bus bay.

Community Environment and Litter: The Parent Council received updates regarding litter concerns within the wider community. Positive partnership work with local community groups, Campus Police and pupils contributed to visible improvements throughout the year, including litter-picking activities involving learners.

Transition and Family Engagement

Supporting successful transition from primary to secondary school remained a priority. The Parent Council supported discussions regarding transport information, pathway choices, family communication and induction arrangements for incoming pupils.

Overall Reflection

The 2025/26 session was characterised by strong collaboration, openness and shared ambition between the Parent Council and school leadership team. Discussions remained firmly aligned with the School Improvement Plan and focused on improving outcomes for young people across attainment, attendance, wellbeing, inclusion, employability and innovation.