



Kilmarnock Academy

Parent Council Meeting

Monday 5th October 2026, 6.30pm

Conference Room, Kilmarnock Academy

Present: David Rose (HT), Elaine Paton (Chair), Jen Graham, Allan Reid, Claire Brands, Clare Purewal, Claire-Louise Davidson (notes), Neal Ingram (Councillor), Laura McChristie, Graham Barton (Councillor), Claire Wallace (DHT), Graeme Johnston (DHT)

Apologies: Stephen Coyle, Carol MacInnes, Julie Connor, Karen Paterson, Donna Rae, Peter Mabon (Councillor), Graham Boyd (Councillor)

In Attendance: Stuart Cartner (PTPS)(item iii a), Millie and Evan (S6)(item iii b)

1. Welcome and apologies – Elaine Paton

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

2. Matters arising from previous meeting: Elaine Paton

- i) Constitution: A draft has been circulated to PC members via email with the papers. Following discussion, it was agreed that reference to the treasurer role should be removed. It was also agreed to include an invitation to senior pupils to attend PC meetings. A 3-year review period for the constitution was also agreed. As these are minor changes, the Parent Forum will be informed.

Action: *Elaine will update with the agreed changes and forward the draft Constitution for onward cascade.*

- ii) Restriction on Mobile Phones in Schools Consultation: Elaine shared a copy of the collated response from the parents on this consultation. This has now been submitted to Scottish Government. David noted that the school was running a survey on parental awareness of the schools "Bag it or Box it" policy as a check in with families.
- iii) Links with wider Parent Forum: Constitution amendment will be put onto the school blog. PC will consider sending out a flash report of PC meeting minutes to engage wider parent forum.
- iv) PC membership: despite repeated promotion of the PC call for members through Instagram and various head teacher updates, there had been no interest from new or potential members. It was agreed that there would be a stall or point of contact available at upcoming S2 parent appointment meetings (28th October) to try and promote the PC. A QR code will also be added to the S1 reports to encourage and promote new membership.

Action: *Elaine to liaise with David with an e-form and QR code for prospective S1 members for inclusion in tracking report.*

3. School Update

a) My World of Work (S Cartner)

Stuart provided a demonstration of some of the key features of the My World of Work profile. Every child in the school from S1-S6, have their own profile. All S1s should be signed up by end of October. Pupils are encouraged to update regularly but are also allocated time in PSE class.

This is the second year of this current website design and is transferable from the previous version. The website is geared to work with mobile phones for ease of access.

The aim is for pupils to build a profile for moving on from school in preparation for interviews, personal statements etc. The website does not use AI so output will not be flagged negatively by companies or learning institutions.

b) b) New Qualifications (C Wallace)

There followed a presentation regarding the Foundation Apprenticeships from Claire, and two S6 pupils who are currently undertaking the L6 Business Skills Apprenticeship.

Claire provided an overview of the newly available Foundation Apprenticeship qualifications. This is the stage before modern or graduate apprenticeships and are L5 or L6 qualifications aimed at S5 and S6 pupils. These are assessed in class with no external examination. The courses combine in class learning with 10 week work placement experience.

There are 12 courses available for schools to select, with Kilmarnock Academy offering two options this academic year; L5 Hospitality Skills and L6 Business Skills.

L5 Hospitality Skills comprising 6 periods per week taught in school by a Home Economics teacher. Pupils' work experience is not mandatory for L5 but is being incorporated this year by the school. There are 2 options for work placements available at Buzzworks or Dick institute café/EA Food Hub. It was noted that pupils gain the food hygiene certificate during workplace experience.

L6 Business Skills: 6 periods per week taught in school by a Business Studies teacher and 1 day per week (for 10 weeks) on work experience. This takes place in one of East Ayrshire Council offices. Pupils are assigned to a mentor within the workplace who assesses the workplace element of the course and who must be SVQ assessor trained.

Millie and Evan shared their experiences of the course and their placements, both being very enthusiastic and proud of the work that they are doing and the opportunities that this will provide them. Both were commended by Claire and David on their presentation and participation in the work experience programme, where they were both integrated into their respective EAC teams.

A further two course options are planned to be offered next academic session; Social services: children and young people (L6) and Food and Drink Technologies (L6). There is a need to ensure that there is capacity to offer work experience placements before other courses can be considered.

Both Cllrs Barton and Ingram commented on how enthusiastic they are about these courses. Asked, in choosing course selection, if current open job roles in the community were considered, Claire and David corroborated the conscious link with Ayrshire Growth Deal.

c) Attainment (Insight) Data – G Johnston

Graeme presented a summary of the Insight data and how Kilmarnock Academy compared against other East Ayrshire schools, national average and the Virtual Comparator. He presented information on the three targets which were set last year:

- Target 1) Increase the percentage of S4 pupils achieving Numeracy at SCQF Level 4 to match or exceed the Virtual Comparator, whilst raising attainment of the lowest 20%. Target Met.
- Target 2) Increase the number of S5 pupils achieving up to 4+ qualifications at SCQF Level 6, with a particular focus on closing the gap in Numeracy Level 6. Target not met; 37% S5 4+ @ L6, down 5%, and L6 Numeracy down 8%.
- Target 3) Increase the percentage of S6 pupils achieving 1+ awards at SCQF Level 7 and improve Level 6 Numeracy, ensuring attainment across all SIMD groups is in line with or above national levels. Target met.

The data is assessed against various parameters including gender and SIMD. It was noted that S4 results in 7 out of 10 SIMD declines, attainment was higher than the national average; for S5 this was 5 out of 10 deciles; S6 all deciles were above the national average.

d) Draft Parent Improvement Plan: D Rose

This has now been finalised and published on the school blog.

Elaine thanked all the speakers for their presentations, noting the contribution of the young people.

4. AOCB

a) Canteen pricing

Elaine summarised her discussion with East Ayrshire Council Catering Manager and one of the system managers (for Parent Pay). She will send a fuller report by email after this meeting due to time, but key points are summarised below:

- Confirmed that the school canteen can and will take cash as an alternative payment method.
- No child will be refused a lunch meal, regardless of funds available.
- Reprogramming of the tills will be undertaken, so they display the child's name and the cost of that transaction but not a running balance.
- Fresh fruit is available at the school cafeteria at all times.
- Free toast is available before school from the school cafeteria.

EA catering team training will be undertaken to make sure all staff understand appropriate wording when funds are not available to ensure dignity and respect of the young person is maintained. It will also ensure that the young person is informed that, whilst they may not be able to purchase a snack, they can and should return at lunch for a hot meal, regardless of parent pay funds.

Chris Walker, catering manager at EA council, has offered to come to a future PC meeting to talk about any issues raised. It was felt that the discussion that had taken place addressed issues for now.

Graeme also noted that a free breakfast is available every morning before school to every pupil.

Action: Elaine to provide a fuller summary of the meeting discussion to PC members.

b) S3 Study skills timing

David confirmed that the S3 study skills teaching has been brought forward immediately after the October break and before the S3 class exams take place. He noted that the S3 exam timetable will be available this week on the school app.

S4 prelim timetable will be available from 30th November.

Elaine thanked everyone for their participation and closed the meeting.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The next parent council meeting will be held on Monday 2nd November at 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.