

Parent Council Meeting – Tuesday 14th November 2023 at 6pm.

Agenda:

1. Welcome - V Stokoe - PC Chair
2. Head Boy / Head Girl update – L Stokoe / M Grant
3. Course Choice Update – S Hamilton – DHT (Curriculum)
4. School Update – C McKay – Rector
5. Curriculum Change proposal – C McKay - Rector
6. AOCB

Head Boy / Head Girl update (Mirren not able to attend)

- Lewis and Mirren were honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of KHS as the Remembrance Service along with Mr McKay. Please see Twitter for photos from the day.
- Miss Dempsey organised MVP - 2-day course on information on all types of violence. This was to inform and teach S6 pupils skills for talking to younger peer groups, mostly S1 & S2 about these issues from a pupils perspective.
- Mrs Davidson had set up various work experiences, this included visits to the Sheriff Court which the pupils found interesting.
- Prefects helped at the P7 information evening held at KHS. The P7's had a chance to speak to teachers from all departments and learn more about various subjects.

Course Choice Update – S Hamilton – DHT (Curriculum)

- Mrs Hamilton could not attend therefore Mr McKay gave a brief update.
- Mock course choice assemblies have been held to give pupils an outline of the process and some guidance regarding course choices. These mock choices help for future planning for both young people and the school.
- There will be a learning fair held on the 18th January for parents and pupils to help make the final course choices by early to mid-February. There will also be one to one meetings with guidance prior to making the final choices.
- There are collaboration meetings being held with other schools (4 locally) to widen the curriculum for senior pupils as to support widening our curriculum offer.

School Update – C McKay – Rector

- Attendance has increased 4% from this time last year. This has been facilitated by taking a strategic approach with the introduction of the new inclusion hub and new DHT post for 'closing the gap'. More work needs to be done as still below the national average.
- 5 a day (Mr McKay speaks with 5 pupils per day from different year groups), this helps to get views from the kids about the school and how they feel. Pupils are voicing that they are feeling safer, less fights and bullying has decreased. There is still work ongoing around these issues and approach is key. Mrs Gibb will give a more detailed update at next PTC meeting.

- The focus so far this term has been to look at what the school needs to do to improve attendance, engagement, safety, and curriculum.
- PEF plan: related to most disadvantaged pupils. PSO have been down 2 staff members, but a new member was appointed yesterday, therefore hopefully support will improve quickly.
- New tracking and monitoring system, where parents receive 1 report per term. This should feed into parents' evenings where the focus should be on learning rather than behaviour.
- The school underspent last session, mostly due to the recruitment and delays to this. £80K being spent on smart technologies, improving IT infrastructure, better WIFI, laptops etc. A barista machine has been purchased for the NPA in hospitality. These are all sustainable things for the future. Some money has been used for supply staff to provide ongoing support, allowing Guidance team to concentrate on supporting young people and not teaching their own subject area.
- There are continued issues on the buses. These are being dealt with in conjunction with the police and Stagecoach. There will be consequences for the pupils involved.
- Reporting absence system has improved but Mrs Gibb has flagged things that can be improved further with internal systems. There may be another update in the future.

Curriculum Change proposal – C McKay – Rector

- Need to identify areas of improvement in order to increase attendance and achievement.
- Look at how KHS engages with the kids.
- Key core values to aspire to.
- Listening to young people to find out what their challenges are for attending school.
- Work still needs to be done to ensure more varied and relevant qualifications.
- Support into next destination after school. KHS has a lower than national average for positive destinations, but this has increased by 2% from last year.
- Aim is for a minimum of 5 qualifications at Nat 3/4, which would be minimum required for college. Employment availability fluctuates constantly.
- There are issues of national entitlement not being met for S2-S3 with a broad general education. This was amended for this session. Young people in S5/6 not receiving entitlements and need to address this.
- Full teaching entitlement is to increase to 27.5hrs. How the additional 30mins will be incorporated will be up for consultation and discussion with all stakeholders. May need to think about starting a focus group with parents so we can work from the ground up.
- Planning on how to engage with pupils today and future post covid is vital.
- Individual targeting for specific groups, therefore, may be different to universal approach.
- There is a need to redesign/evolve the curriculum.
- Strategic and balanced approach over 3 years, e.g., redevelopment of S1 curriculum, wider achievement options through things like Duke of Edinburgh awards.
- S5/6 increase offer in school with collaboration with other schools and college etc.
- Need to look at our school day to facilitate the curriculum change.

AOCB

- Rona Weir, Education manager has asked if a representative from PTC would like to attend a Health and Wellbeing workshop on Tuesday 21st Nov 1.30-4.30pm at the Saltire centre in Glenrothes.
- 6th year hoodies, decision to be made this week as to whether they will be regarded as part of the S6 uniform.
- Homework – a parent has flagged the lack of homework. [CM](#) – review of homework to take place between January and March and give overview. Raise standards and expectations. Each faculty learning teaching and assessment – what is happening in the classroom. Post covid, some things have remained unchallenged (for young people) e.g. homework. These will be discussed.
- School trips – A parent has asked for better communication about upcoming trips. Possibly add this to rector's log and group call message to parents of relevant year group.
Another parent flagged the lack of notice for the upcoming pantomime trip and funding for it. Mr McKay apologised for this and encouraged any family to get in touch with the school if funding is an issue. The school have funds to help those more disadvantaged so that they do not miss out.
- Fife Council guidelines on how to spend School funds – There is one pot of money which is used to help young people. Would be good to have a parent council and pupil leadership team to help decide how the funds are divided up.
- Parent Council are asking for as many parents as possible to attend meetings. All we ask is 1hr of your time each term (4 times per year). It would be good to get a wider view on parents' thoughts on all matters KHS. Your input would help YOUR children. Please spread the word!

Next PTC will be mid-February. Date will be announced in the new year.