

Parent Council Meeting – Tuesday 14th May 2024 at 6pm.

Agenda:

1. Welcome - V Stokoe - PC Chair
2. Staff absence
3. League Table
4. Buses
5. New School day
6. Attendance Update (K Gibb, DHT)
7. New PtC Chair
8. AOCB

Staff Absence

At the start of the session, probationer teachers were employed to cover planned absences e.g. maternity cover and surgeries etc. In January / February time, there were several staff shortages due to seasonal illness. Few incidences where young people were in the hall (after about 5 school days end of January), but PTC's have been involved to ensure work is in place and try to put staff on rotation to ensure all pupils have some periods with a specialist teacher. Cover work was set on teams and for those pupils with no phone to access the work, either school laptop or a hard copy is provided. Overall staff absence is down from an average of 25/30 (Aug -Dec 2022) to an average of 10 this session.

League Table

As published, the figures are represented by those achieving 5 Highers by the time they leave KHS. This may include S4-S6 leavers, but will be mostly S5/6 leavers. This is based on 4/5/6 years of work and not just in one academic session. Things that impact this are curriculum choice, COVID, high staff absence and of course learning and teaching over this time period. Moreover, these figures are highly dependant on point of exit of pupils and the number of qualifications obtained. We follow the national trend for leavers from S4 to S5 (around 15% leave) but we have a greater number of S5 leavers than the national trend (around 54% of young people leave before end of S6). To improve this measure, we need to have curriculum that engages and meets the needs of all learners. This is the main drive behind the current changes.

KHS profile looks less academic in terms of statistics (20% leave to University but 80% to college / employment / training) but looking at curriculum changes to help improve these, including alternative qualifications for example NPA's and foundation apprenticeships to complement our core offer. There has also been an increase in ASN needs, with over 50% of the student population identifying as having 1 or more ASN.

Although we have our challenges, we have worked hard over the last 2 sessions to build strong foundations and ensure that young people achieve their potential, unique to their talent and needs.

As a result of a relentless focus on ensuring those at the more disadvantaged end achieve success, our positive destination percentage has increased in the last couple of years – from 89% to over 95%. We have also increased the number of learners achieving at least 5 level 3 and level 4 qualifications to the highest ever point for KHS over the past 5 years. Young people in S4 continue to achieve high levels of literacy and numeracy, again exceeding Fife, National and comparator schools.

In summary, league tables are 5-6 years in the making and covid has had a massive impact on KHS and the overall national trend. Actions of KHS was to settle the school, put processes and systems in place and early interventions. Learning, teaching, and assessment will be the focus next session as per the feedback from parents, young people and staff. It can take 3-4 years to reverse and improve the qualification statistics at KHS for specific measures like the 5 Higher one. There needs to be an improvement from S4 taking 5 or more Nat 5's into 5 Highers in S5. We need to try to retain more young people in S6 to ensure that they leave with the highest awards possible and the best opportunities for later success.

KHS looking to provide a 1-page table to give a comprehensive overview of the full picture of achievement rather than 1, crude measure that does not take account of anything other than show the continued disadvantage that poverty has on the outcomes for young people.

Buses

No confirmation yet although have heard that the contracts have been awarded. Chris contacting Shelagh McLean (Head of Education) to confirm. KHS has lobbied to ensure better negotiations for the timetable. Councillor Ross will contact transport to try to get an update. Parents should be given the information from council directly but KHS will update if they receive information.

Update – bus timetables will be published and shared over the coming months. It is normal practice that these are updated over summer and shared with families (Update from S McLean (Head of Service))

New School Day

No tutor time. 1st period starts at 8.40am.

Monday to Thursday – 7 periods lasting 50mins each. Break after period 2 and lunch after period 5 at 1.05pm. School Day will finish at 3.25. On a Friday school will finish at lunch 1.05pm. This will not begin until August 2024.

From 4th June until end of term, new timetable will commence but there will be no change to school start and finish times until after the school holidays. On a Friday afternoon there will be a focus on literacy, numeracy, and health & wellbeing for S2 and S3, with S4-6 placed in study classes.

Attendance Update (K Gibb, DHT)

New policy is available on KHS website.

Aim was to create a robust tracking system with a 3-stage process.

1. Send a supportive letter to parents to make them aware of absences.
2. Formal letter to be sent if attendance is causing concern.
- 3(i) Professional judgement by guidance staff to involve wider SLT.
- (ii) Formal meeting with parents.

The tracking system is updated first Monday of each month and letters sent out the following week.

The focus for next session will be targeted groups.

Looking at rewarding good attendance. Rewards will be tailored to individual pupils.

New PTC Chair

As Victoria is required to step down as chair with her son finishing S6, formal thank you to Victoria from Chris for all her hard work as chair for PTC over the past few years.

Laura Frew will take on role as chair of PTC.

Future planning of the PTC is to set up a formal constitution. Introduction of an annual AGM to discuss new chair for each year.

PTC require someone to take the minutes of each meeting. Laura has done these for a few years but cannot continue with her role as chair. Please get in touch if this is something you can help with. PTC only have one meeting per term (4 per year).

AOCB

Parent has asked what happened to praise picnics or outings to celebrate wider achievement?

Chris - These obviously stopped with Covid but there is work going on in the background to promote positive policy. Mr Spink is leading on this with a team of staff.