

“Respect for Self, Respect for Others, Respect for Learning”

KIRKCALDY HIGH SCHOOL



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Our Ref:

Dear Parent / Carer,

Learner Voice and Family Engagement

It is important to us, as a school and community, to gather the voices and views of learners and families about how well we are doing as a school, and importantly, what we could do to be even better.

Each academic session, we undertake a range of engagements with all of our stakeholders and partners to understand where we are, and to shape our future priorities. I wanted to take this opportunity to outline some of these processes, the mechanisms we use and how this has shaped our current School Improvement Plan (SIP).

Learner Voice

As a school, it is important that we not only listen to the views of learners, but they also lead and support our school improvements. Below outlines a range of ways in which we work with learners to engage, lead and listen.

- Head Teacher 5-a-day (will become Head Teacher weekly dozen from this session) – learners are selected at random to meet with the HT and discuss a range of issues related to life and learning at KHS. This is for all year groups
- Head Teacher and School Captains termly meeting – meeting with HT and Head Boy / Head Girl to discuss pupil leadership, senior concerns and school improvement
- School Improvement focus groups – Learners will meet with Depute Head Teachers and other members of school staff to discuss issues related to strategic improvements – this could range from learning to curriculum to positive relationships to ethos and beyond. This is for all year groups
- Faculty Improvement focus groups - Learners from all year groups will be invited to meet and discuss specific faculty and subject areas – this will be in the form of what is working well and what can be improved
- House Leadership Groups – this will be led by our house leadership teams, supported by teachers, again focussed on learners’ views about KHS
- Learning and Teaching Leadership Group – working to support our staff learning and teaching School Improvement Group, the ambassadors will support with looking at how our learners can help and support each other to lead their learning
- Rights and Ethos Pupil leadership group – led by Mrs Young and Mr Sanderson, learners form part of the leadership around our Right Respecting Schools status and support the ongoing delivery of key features
- Equalities Pupil Leadership Group – led in conjunction with Dr Murray and others, this group support a range of work around equality and diversity here at KHS.

This list is not exhaustive but gives a flavour and sense of the range of activities undertaken to engage, listen and support learners to lead in shaping the direction and future of improvement priorities here at KHS. We use learner surveys, Microsoft Forms and other engagement tools to supplement and support this.



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Every effort is made to ensure that groups are selected based around our school context and characteristics. We aim to ensure that learners are not negatively affected by missing lots of classes etc, using some of the core subject times to support.

Family Engagement

We continue to seek the views of parents / carers and other stakeholders in shaping the priorities of KHS. Below are a number of engagements we use to support this:

- Parent / Carer Council – meets termly for around an hour and ensures that there is a formal forum for families to discuss with HT and other senior leaders any issues or concerns related to the school. It is also an opportunity to discuss future initiatives and hear about the range of learning and opportunities here at KHS
- Parent / Carer surveys (school) – throughout each session, we regularly seek the views of our community about a range of issues – curriculum, anti-bullying work, general school views, etc. These are important surveys that are used to help identify areas that are going well and those we need to improve
- Parent / Carer surveys (faculty / subject) – as above but focussed more specifically around faculty and subject areas
- Family drop-in sessions / HT Surgery and other informal engagements – Last session, I offered a drop-in surgery for families to come in and discuss any concerns or issues they had. This will begin again in term 2. Other sessions have also been offered and will continue.
- Parent / Carer evenings, Information sessions, learning fair etc. – opportunities for both formal and informal discussion around improvements / learning / support and other important aspects of school
- Family focus groups – based around key school improvement priorities, these offer the opportunity for families to engage on specific areas or topics. Last session there were sessions on Curriculum and School day changes, Supported Learning and Universal support provision in KHS.

Again, this is not an exhaustive list and there are many more opportunities for families to be involved in shaping our school and future priorities.


I hope this gives you a sense of the importance we place on your views, and that of your child(ren). I also hope that if your child(ren) are invited to take part, that this helps you to better understand what we are doing, why and most importantly the purpose.

Lastly, I would like to thank you, and our learners, for sharing your views of KHS. Over the past two sessions, and the current session, these have helped shape our priorities and provided a firm foundation for us to continue our school improvements.

Through all of these forums, we hear that almost all young people feel safe in school, learners feel supported and know who they can go to for support and we have improved key outcomes for learners (achievement, positive destinations and more).

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any suggestions about how we can engage more of our community, or indeed, if you have any concerns.

Best wishes,



Chris McKay

Rector



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