

Parent and Carers of Kirkcaldy
Parent council meeting
Tuesday 28th January 2025
Online @ 6.30pm

Attendees:

Chris McKay - Head Teacher
Kerry Gibb – DHT
Laura Frew – Parent Council Chair
Tricia Hunter – Parent
Alison Wardlaw – Parent
Kaye Grieve - Parent
Mrs Eskar - Parent
Cllr David Ross – Fife Council
Deacon Eskar – Head Boy

Apologies : Mr Young (DHT) & Katelyn Wotherspoon (Head Girl)

Welcome

Laura welcomed everyone to the meeting. Initial concerns were raised regarding the meeting not meeting quorum according to the new constitution. Kerry Gibb, though a teacher, also had children at KHS.

Laura along with Chris, participated in the primary school roadshow and distributed leaflets promoting the parent council to parents of P7 pupils. The feedback received was positive. It was agreed that Chris would invite parents to attend the final Parent Council meeting of the year in May and he will send out a Group call.

Head Boy /Head Girl

Deacon began by informing everyone that Katelyn could not attend the meeting due to illness. He noted that the return to school has been busy, and some senior pupils are feeling stressful. However, support measures are in place to help alleviate this and offer support.

S6 students organised a Christmas concert and invited P7's to attend. This event aimed to ease the transition and give P7 pupils a better understanding of what to expect when they start after the summer.

Deacon also highlighted that significant efforts are being made behind the scenes to support and prepare pupils for their exams.

Headteacher update

School budget – KHS is in a positive position with a slight underspend, and discussions are ongoing about how best to allocate these funds. In previous years, the school has used such funds to update their IT equipment.

School improvement – Plans are underway to offer additional study session for S4 – S6 students. These sessions will be held on across the week, Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings to provide extra study support.

Staffing – There has been stability over the past 6 months, with a few movements within the maths department. Chris & Mrs Hamilton are working together to ensure that all young persons have a maths teacher for a minimum of 3 out of 4 periods.

Changes amongst Guidance Teachers – there are currently four consistent guidance teachers, and efforts are being made to ensure continuity with the changes. Chris understands parents' concerns and is actively working towards ensuring handovers are in place and we have continuity moving forward. Year heads are actively involved in supporting young persons. SLT and PTGs meet after every school day to discuss caseloads and ensure support is in place.

Well-being – Kerry Gibb

The initiative “Getting it right for every child” involved spending time with young people to help them understand the questionnaire, and how to complete it. The questions were kept simple, with yes/no answers. During the parent council meeting Kerry shared her screen show examples of the questionnaire.

It was agreed that all young persons should be well known to their teachers and properly representation to the parents. This principle applies not only to children needing additional support but also to those who do not. It is essential to get it right for every child.

Unfortunately, Mr Young was unable to attend tonight due to illness. However, he is leading the “Celebrating Success” initiative. Despite some young people being hesitant about being singled out, it is important to acknowledge and recognise.

Laura mentioned that staffing issues have already been addressed. She then proceeded to discuss tracking reports.

Tracking reports are useful for parents to monitor their children progress, but the current format has some flaws and has raised concerns. Parents would like the reports to be simpler, making it easier to identify where their young person is, where they should be, and whether additional support is necessary, A brief sentence accompanying the reports could also help parents better understand them. The last tracking report submitted mixed previous years' report with current progress, making it difficult to read.

Chris advised that they are working on improvements, but changes will not be immediate. Parents and carers may not see an improvement until after the summer break, if changes are possible.

There are concerns that, for various reasons, not all parents are able to meet with the young person's teachers at parents evening. Chris advised that if parents have not been able to meet the teacher, they can contact the young person's guidance teacher, who will obtain a report from their teachers.

Chris requested support from the Parent council and attendees for an authority review of KHS in February. The review will focus on the school's leadership approaches, how KHS works with families in involving them in changes, taking views into account and how changes have been implemented at KHS. This is 1 of 4 key focus areas that HMIE Inspectors examine during school inspections and is part of a new model the local authority is looking to trial.

Chris proposed that the authority review of KHS could take place on Monday 17th February at 4.30/5pm or Tuesday 18th February at 9.30am. This review can be conducted in person, online or a blend of both.

AOCB

A question was raised about when young persons will be moving up to next year. Chris advised that the school is aiming for the 12th of May but the transition window is from the 12th to the 26th May .