

BELMONT ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting

Wednesday 25th October 2023 at 6.30pm in Conference/e-Learning Room



PRESENT:

Parent Members: Susan Bell (Chairperson & Note Taker), Emma Brown (Deputy Chair), Heather Knox, Jonathan Hagen, Karen Harley, Kirsty Thomson, Lorna Russell, Lyssa McCartney, Lesley Strain, Rosemary Logie, David Codling.

Staff Members: Kevin Boyd (Head Teacher), Ian Watson (Principal Teacher for Guidance), Graeme McLean (Depute Head Teacher), Lynsey Pollock (Principal Teacher for Modern Studies & History)

Pupil Members: Caitlin M, Ross N (School Captains)

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chair, Susan Bell, welcomed everyone to the meeting and intimated apologies on behalf of Josephine Docherty, David Bulloch, Emily Hamilton, Karen McGimpsey, Emma Boyle, Vanessa Lawrence & Pamela Gray.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting & Matters Arising

The Minute of the last meeting held on 27th September 2023 was approved by Lorna Russell and seconded by Lynsey Pollock, as a true record of that meeting.

Item (5) Events – these are now listed on the new school website.

Item 6(a) Fund-raising bag pack opportunity – awaiting response from supermarkets following a request to permit bag-packing. **ACTION: Susan Bell**

Item 6(b) Card reader for fund-raising – ongoing (awaiting Treasurer's update)

ACTION: David Bulloch

3. School Captain's Update (Ross N & Caitlin M)

The process to appoint new School Captains involved a competitive process, with 60 applications submitted and 23 students interviewed.

a) **Fund Raising:** To date fund-raising events have included:

- Bake sale which raised £230
- Karaoke which has raised £150

There are several more events planned.

b) **Pupil Improvement Plan:** Captains have been actively involved in Pupil Improvement Plan where pupil leadership team meet with senior leadership team on a Friday morning.

c) **S1 Check-ins:** There have been check-ins with the new S1 students.

d) **Homework Club:** S6's are involved in successfully running the Homework club for S1 + S2 (1 hour sessions) in the library.

e) **Pupil Council:** Involvement with the Pupil Council is ongoing.

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- f) **Vote for school charity:** Pupils, parents and staff members have been asked to vote on their preferred charity they'd like to support, the preferred choice will be announced when voting is closed.

4. Treasurer's Report

David Bulloch sent his apologies for the meeting. Susan Bell confirmed the Parent Council bank account currently has £1298.41 in funds.

5. Pastoral Update (Ian Watson)

- a) UCAS 90 Applicants on UCAS system, although some are unsure whether to go forward.
- Increased number of people going for Graduate apprenticeships / Apprenticeships (Earn while you learn).
- System has changed recently so PTG's adapting to new system.
- b) Attendance Primary focus for Guidance team:
- Attendance = Attainment.
- House attendance leads (new role)
- Their current focus
- Those between 80%-90%
 - Targeted pupils (identified by House team)
 - End of day TBC's
- c) Assemblies • Remembrance – Friday November 10th 2023
- Christmas – Wednesday December 20th 2023
- Holocaust Memorial Day – Friday January 26th 2024

6. Head Teacher Update (Kevin Boyd)

a) Staffing

Congratulations to Mrs K. Lawrie (nee Maxwell) for securing a permanent DHT post at Ayr Academy. We thank Mrs Lawrie for her service to our school and her contribution to the Parent Council. Once an official start date is finalised we will advertise for a permanent PTG Arran House.

We have recently appointed one PT post (start date TBC):

- Jade O'Hara PT Modern Languages (Garnock Academy, NAC).

We currently have one post where the advert has just closed and we are about to recruit:

- PT Pupil Support.

We will now recruit permanent staff for PT PE, PT Maths and PT English posts.

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I am pleased to report once again that our levels of staff absence continue to be extremely low. Our staffing situation is reasonably settled and we have had a positive start to the new term.

b) **Quality Assurance**

On Friday, 6 October we had an extremely positive and productive attainment visit where members of the senior team discussed our many strengths, areas for improvement and next steps with Lyndsay McRoberts (Director of Education) and Gavin Pitt (QIM). At the end of the meeting Lyndsay thanked all staff for their hard work and commented on the positive outlook for our school community moving forward.

In addition, we are now embarking in a round of Departmental Review meetings. This is an opportunity for PTs and their colleagues to share their strengths and areas for improvements across the department. I attend each of these along with the link DHT and much of our discussions is focussed on SP attainment.

These reviews enable the SLT to support and challenge colleagues through professional dialogue in a culture of mutual respect. Key priorities and attainment action plans are agreed then monitored throughout the session to ensure whole school improvement.

c) **Parents' Evenings**

Parents' evenings begin with S1 on Monday, 30 October and key dates are now available on the school calendar via the new school website.

d) **Supported Study Programme**

We will continue to deliver a wide range of supported study (focus on SP) this session. The school website section 'Pupils/ Supported Study' details our current provision and we will continue to update this. Mr McLean DHT will promote this information with pupils and parent/carers.

e) **Curriculum**

Jill Flanagan DHT now leads the Curriculum Improvement Team who are developing our Curriculum Rationale paper. As part of our ongoing curricular development we will review existing courses and curricular pathways. This will include a closer look at the Enhanced Curriculum in S6 and the possible implementation of Electives in S3 for next session. Mrs Flanagan will consult all stakeholders and will attend a future Parent Council meeting to share progress.

Mr McLean will provide an overview of the careers' consultancy events that are planned for this session to support informed decision making when young people (and their families) are planning learning pathways.

f) **Vision, Values & Aims**

Belmont Academy's Vision is to become a nurturing learning environment which inspires every learner to reach their potential.

Our three **School Improvement Priorities** are:

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1. Develop High Quality Learning and Teaching that leads to improved levels of attainment and achievement for all
2. Improve Health and Wellbeing to enable children to flourish
3. Support learners to develop skills for learning, life and work

Our collective goal is to continue to raise levels of attainment and achievement for all of our young people. We have set ourselves ambitious attainment targets, for 60% of S4 pupils to achieve 5+@N5, 30% of S5 pupils to achieve 5+@Higher, and 30% of S6 pupils to achieve 1+@AH. Whilst examination success remains extremely important, I would also like to emphasise some key messages:

- Pupil attendance is a key focus for our improvement work
- Health and wellbeing of our whole school community is paramount
- There is no wrong pathway for our young people; everyone's learner journey is different
- Belmont Academy is about ensuring every pupil is able to fulfil their potential by attaining the highest level of qualifications possible and by receiving the best possible experience
- Our curriculum is designed to ensure all young people can achieve this
- We celebrate all successes equally – if a pupil gets a modern apprenticeship, enters the world of work or gets in to college or university (e.g. Passes N5, 'C' at Higher, one AH)
- We will continue to focus on DYW, in the knowledge that increased collaboration between Belmont Academy and industry, means the routes into employment will be the most diverse they have ever been.

g) **School Improvement**

Our School improvement Plan for this session and the Standards & Quality Report for 2022-23 are available at the bottom of the 'Our School' website page along with other useful links. Mr McLean DHT has also created a SIP Summary on a page to highlight our improvement work relating to our three priorities.

The following Improvement Teams met during the in-service day:

- Learning, Teaching & Assessment
- Promoting Positive Behaviour
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- STEM.

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7. Promoting Positive Behaviour (Julie McCaig)

Julie McCaig delivered a PowerPoint presentation explaining the approach the school are taking to promote positive behaviour (copy embedded below).



Promoting Positive
Behaviour.pptx

8. Belmont Funding Futures (BFF) Update (Emma Brown)

A fund-raising raffle has been launched and this will be drawn on 15th December 2023. Parent Council Members were asked to obtain a raffle prize if possible and bring to the next meeting.

Raffle tickets are available from S6 students as well as the school office.

ACTION: All

9. Any Other Business

Dance has been added to S3 PE as a curriculum subject during session 23-24. There are currently a group of nice pupils doing dance in S3.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parent Council will take place on **Wednesday 29th November 2023** at **6.30pm** in the **Conference/e-Learning Room** within Belmont Academy.