

## **Kyle Academy Parent Council**

### **Parent Council Meeting – Tuesday 4 June 2024**

**Present:** M Byrne, J Brady (S1), A D’Amico (S5), M Ford (S4/S6), K McHarg (S3/S6), L Morrison (S3), S Robertson (S5), M Thomas-C (S3)

**Chair:** M Ford

#### **1. Minutes of last Parent Council meeting**

Minutes proposed and seconded.

Update on all-weather pitch - SFA have come back to say no club in our area with the level of affiliation needed do not already have a pitch. A D’M reported that Councillor Cullen had approached L McRoberts and had been told there was no funding available for Kyle.

#### **ACTION**

MB to approach SAC for solutions to accommodation problems in PE that are resulting in S5/6 courses unable to run.

#### **2. Head Teacher’s Report – M Byrne**

MB shared recent events and achievements – see attached.

#### **3. Update from Meeting of Parent Council Chairs – K McHarg**

Improving Attendance – I Leishman, Inclusion Coordinator – attendance is national and local issue. Average attendance in secondary schools in South Ayrshire is 86% which is the equivalent of one and a half days off every fortnight. Strategy to improve attendance include media campaign beginning in August 2024. On 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024, parents will be able to report a school absence on Parentsportal. It is hoped this will improve communication around absences.

Literacy – S Law, Literacy Coordinator – a large investment in literacy over the next 3 years will target raising attainment in literacy. This is largely primary focused but there will be continued focus on reading in secondaries.

L McRoberts, Director of Education – shared information about budget cuts across the authority. There will be a reduction in teacher numbers but only as a result of falling school rolls. There continues to be a challenge recruiting teachers in secondary schools in certain subjects.

#### **4. School Improvement Planning 2024/25**

MB and the senior leadership team had a visit from the Director of Education, Lyndsay McRoberts, to review the school’s performance and priorities for improvement next session. The data released recently about the performance of last year’s leavers was excellent. Almost all left with an award in literacy and numeracy and just under half left with 5 Highers. This put us in the top 50 schools in Scotland and top in SAC.

- 3@6 is highest for latest 3 years
- 5@6 is highest of 5 years on record
- 1@7 is highest of 5 years on record

Our priorities for next year will be to continue to develop wellbeing of our young people, continue to improve learning, teaching and assessment and begin to review our curriculum in S1 and S2. The Parent council will look at this in more detail in the next session.

## **5. School communication with parents and social media**

MB asked for views on school communication and the preferred social media channels to share the life and work of the school.

- Parents reported difficulties opening attachments on Expressions app
- Move away from formal letters as attachments and put info in an email that engages readers in first 10 words
- Explore Facebook and Instagram for social media
- Return to Sway newsletters
- Limit number of different Twitter accounts linked to the school to avoid confusion

## **6. AOCB**

**Work Experience** – MB reported that a few employers approached the school as a result of our appeal. More are still needed. All S4 lettered today about work experience in September so there may be more self-found placements as a result.

**Social Media** – MT suggested the school offers another parent info session on social media. Discussion around table suggested the following would be helpful:

- PC Smith sharing legal implications
- School policy shared
- Up-to-date info about latest apps and how they work shared
- Information about what pupils are taught about in PSE and assemblies relating to social media
- Examples of issues that have arisen as a result of social media and the impact this has had

## **ACTIONS**

MB to plan info session in new term

**Next Meeting: Tuesday 27 August 2024 in school – all P7 parents to be invited to an informal meeting to meet Parent Council and hear about the school and our work**