

## **Kyle Academy Parent Council**

### **Parent Council Meeting – Tuesday 28 January 2025**

**Present:** A D'Amico (S6), O Armour, V Berry, (S1) M Byrne (HT), N Davidson, M Ford, L Hill, E Johnstone (S1), G Johnston (S2), K McHarg (S4), L Morrison (S5), S Robertson (S6), M Thomas-Cusick (S1/S4), P White

**Chair:** M Thomas-Cusick

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

Minutes proposed and seconded.

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

MB provided a report on recent events. See attached.

#### **3. Report from School Captains**

School Captains provided an update on progress with Prom planning. Two of our Captains attended a meeting with Mrs McRoberts, Director of Education, recently. They met with pupil leaders from across South Ayrshire schools to talk about their experiences.

#### **4. Silver Rights Respecting School Award**

MB shared the presentation that the school provided for the assessors on 29 January and talked about some of the work the school does to embed children's rights in the work and ethos of the school. Feedback from the assessors was very positive and they suggested the school was not far away from gold status. Aspects to develop further would be using the language of rights and dignity, continue to promote diversity and equalities, more involvement of parents and develop our work on global citizenship.

One of first steps will be an equalities policy that defines our shared understanding of equalities and what our aims are as a school. Equalities refers not just to those characteristics that are protected by the Equalities Act 2010 but to care experienced children, young carers, ASN, or anyone who may experience disadvantage, prejudice or discrimination. Our policy should also identify how it permeates the curriculum.

Discussion took place about parents understanding of children's rights and equalities and the work the school is doing in these areas, and how to promote it further.

### **ACTIONS**

**MB to upload the presentation to the website for all parents**

#### **5. Online Booking for Parents Evenings**

At our last meeting it was suggested that the school explores online booking. MB provided an update as follows. Parent Booking is the system used by a few South Ayrshire secondary schools. We have costed this (65p per pupil) and are looking at other systems such as Parents Evening system and Parent Cloud. Some have the facility to state when parent is available for appointments and the system will allocate. Some can also be used for booking into information evenings to allow the school to see how many will attend.

## **ACTIONS**

**AD to enquire about which systems have been approved by council**

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

**A Gooding (Speech and Language)** – 5-11 May is Screen Awareness Week. Aim is to get young people to spend less time on devices as research shows it is having a detrimental effect on attention and language development

**I Leishman (Inclusion Co-ordinator)** – attendance across the authority has improved by more than 1%; unauthorised parental holidays have increased; overall in 2024, 10,000 days were lost through absence. Every Learner Every Day campaign is about to begin its third round of advertising.

**G Monaghan (Curriculum)** – GM shared information about work going on nationally to review CfE called the Curriculum Improvement Cycle. In South Ayrshire there is a group looking at problem-based learning and another looking at S1 curriculum to try different approaches to learning in S1.

**G Ferguson (Inclusion)** – there are 162 contracts in the authority for ASN transport. She talked about the work to coordinate this.

**L McRoberts (Director)** – consultation about new ASN unit in Troon is underway and if approved the new provision will open in August.

### **7. AOCB**

S3 parent asked the Parent Council to discuss a recent fundraising event. Following discussion, it was agreed that there were exceptional circumstances around this event and it was a spontaneous pupil-led response that built a strong sense of community across the year group. Involvement in fundraising and pupils realising the good they can bring about by working together was seen as a positive benefit from this type of activity. In future, it was agreed the school would consult before going ahead.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday 25 February 2025**