



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KELSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT FORUM
HELD ON MONDAY 21ST MARCH 2016**

1. Welcome and Introduction - Colin Henderson (Chair)

CH presented the welcome and introduction – copy attached.

2. Head Teacher's Report - Jill Lothian

JL presented the Head Teacher's Report – copy attached.

3. Code of Respect - Pupil Reps: Lucy Anderson, Niamh Turnbull and Gregor Forbes

Code for Respect – PowerPoint attached.

Pupil reps ran through the information outlined in the PowerPoint.

What does KHS stand for? Posters should be displayed in foyer, suggested contacting Cheviot Graphics regarding making 1.5m signs. Copies could be distributed to businesses in the town e.g. Granny Jeans etc. Work with the community.

This is to be followed up again in a years' time to see how things have gone. Once the key points have been finalised this will be a code to live by, aiming to bring everyone together.

4. Community Involvement - Lizzy Philip

LP introduced herself as KHS's Home School Link Worker and gave an outline of her role within school:

- * Capturing vulnerable pupils and working with them in small groups on various projects to engage them e.g. allotment, work placements, learning skills.
- * Runs a breakfast club before school and offers a place for youngsters to go at break and lunchtime
- * Liaising with families
- * Rekindling relationships e.g. Rotary and developing new relationships e.g. social club, Friday Fitness at Probus, Community Council – Kelso in Bloom, Allotments and Saltire Ambassador – Peer Support

Friends of KHS – LP explained that she is in the process of creating a database of links with various individuals, businesses, groups etc. that could assist in making a difference to our youngsters. A variety of services have been offered CV workshops, enterprise, working on the introduction of a free pet care service to assist the elderly, disabled / infirm. This is a very exciting project for youngsters.

In the future LP aims to expand the database, putting out requests to the community and asked the meeting if anyone has any ideas for projects, services that could be offered we would be delighted to add the information onto the database and slowly build it up. CH

suggested attending a Charity begins at Home day which has about 70 agencies attending and would be a great opportunity to make new contacts. There is also the Higher Education Event at Springwood which would be another opportunity to make contacts and possibly put on a café to raise additional funds?

5. School Estates / GIRFEC - Jill Lothian

GIRFEC – PowerPoint attached. JL ran through the information outlined in the PowerPoint.

Information received from the last meeting has now been collated:

S1 –S5 Uniform – black jumper / cardigan (badge/logo optional), Black Trousers, white shirt and black shoes. Looking at revamping the tie to include the KHS logo.

S6 – as above with a different coloured jumper

It was noted that this has come from pupils, the feel scruffy without a shirt and tie when out of school. There will be parental consultation after the Easter break but we are looking to have this in place for the start of next session.

House Time – consultation has taken place with pupils and staff regarding House Time. We are looking to introduce a whole school day rather than just the winning house. Looking at pushing competition between the houses to gain house points. Many pupils were unaware how points we won. This will be reviewed and points will be award for various achievements not just sport.

Canteen – more staff to avoid long queues when S1 are staying within the school over lunchtime. There is a grab n go facility available to save waiting – order is placed earlier in the day and is collected with no need to wait.

S6 pupils will be putting on lunchtime clubs with activities and mentoring. There will also be a numeracy / literacy café, a quiet place for pupils to go. This can be transported to the new school when we move.

Engaging with Parents – we are continuing to engage by posting updates and information via Facebook and Twitter as well as the weekly emailed update. We are also looking into funding an app. There is a ½ page in the Kelso Life as well.

We would love to hear from more parents regarding wider achievement which can be advertised via the website.

How can we promote things? Display around school. Inspire younger pupils. If anyone has any ideas how we could improve on this please get in touch. It will not happen overnight but small steps are all progress.

KHS Exhibition of Work - from 6pm until 8pm in the Craft Design & Technology, Art & Design and Music Departments. Food and drinks will be available. All welcome. See flyer attached below.

6. Funding Bids Received

KHS Media Group – aim to produce 3 newsletters per year and the main expenditure is printing costs. They have some sponsorship and are continuing to pursue for more but have made a bid for £500. PC agreed to contribute 50% of bid, cheque for £250 given to Media Group.

Display Boards – bid received for £264 towards the costs of display boards. An exhibition of work produced by S1- S6 pupils is being held on 21/04/16 and departments will be able to utilise the boards and we will be able to take them to the new school. PC agreed to contribute 50% of bid, cheque for £132 given.

It was suggested that it would be a good idea to have the Parent Council represented at the Exhibition of Work, possibly offering tea / coffee.

7. Treasurer's Post

It was noted that the above post is still to be filled and it was suggested that it could be done as a job share.

8. AOB

It was suggested that the agendas are opened up to the group to suggest any additions; it could be emailed out via Groupcall with a note on the bottom to add anything in that they would like raised.

CH asked if everyone was happy with the format of the evening? The general consensus was positive.

A follow up meeting needs to be organised but it was suggested that the committee gather first and then another meeting is arranged after that.

Mental Health – Roll Out

Train the trainer – definitely in the pipeline but there are no further details at this point.

Support the parents and pupils: exams, stress, subject choices etc.

How do we do this?

Careers Fayre – raising awareness about careers available. Talks by former students?

9. Date of Next Meeting: To be confirmed.

Kelso High School Parents Forum Meeting

21st March 2016 Venue – School Hall Start 7:00

7.00 Welcome and Introduction Colin Henderson Chair parents Council

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen welcome to the Kelso High School Parents Forum, rather than Council at this moment.

Firstly I would like to record a belated thank you to Chris Mowat who has chaired the Parents Council over the past few years and Kerry Innes who has been a hard working treasurer.

There are exciting and challenging times ahead for the pupils and our school and I think it is important that parents get a chance to contribute in a variety of ways. We appear to have the makings of a good Parent Council, we have Michael Scott Watson as Vice Chair, Laura McCann will be taking over from Kerri as our treasurer and Gillian McFadden has been heavily involved with fund raising and catering! Andrew McEwan will hopefully lead us through the maze of social media as we look to develop in that area but more importantly there are a great number of parents contributing in other ways in enhancing the experience pupils get at Kelso High School I would also add that it would be great to get Pupils and school staff involved and working together and finally a big thank you to our Clerk to the Council Suzanne Cowe who has been a great help already. I will return to this at the end of the meeting.

I consider we have 4 main areas that affect our children, the current running of the school, the building of our new school, Scottish Borders Council Education Department and the Scottish Government. We hope to touch on each of these areas tonight with our guest speakers. The pupils covering the Code of Respect, Lizzy Philips will be new to many of you but she is looking to build a database of offers of support and help parents and Kelso can give the school. Jill will cover the regional and national picture through the Schools Estate and GIRFEC.

We do want the best for our children from the Education system and there are challenges ahead. I heard two frightening statistics over the past month. Pupils leaving school now will generally have to work till they are 75 for pupils entering school now 65% of the jobs they will do have not been created yet. How do we prepare our children for that is something I hope we can work with the school to provide.

8.15 Question and Answer Session

For those of you with children in S3 to S5 the choice of subject sheet for the senior phase has changed greatly from when we picked O grades and Highers. While there does appear to be a lot of choice at various locations that immediately brings a major challenge - Transport

Parental subgroups

The Parent Council is the more formal part of our roll but with the Parents Forum we would hope to get everyone involved

I mentioned earlier Andrew McEwan is our communication lead – Andrew any thoughts on developing the social media aspect for parents

Gillian and Kerry have been working on a paper regarding bids for funding from the Parent Council and I thank them for the Guidelines. We are looking at incorporating information on bids to the Maconnochie trust and will also add Youth Chex and CBAH and any others that come along. – Cover the two current bids.

What other groups do we already have? Hockey, Horses, Rugby.

KELSO HIGH SCHOOL
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING
21st March 2016

Head Teacher's Report

Update:

- **New School Building**

On Friday 11th March the 'cutting the sod' ceremony took place to officially mark the start of the build. Head Boy, Charlie and Head Girl, Katie were asked to carry out the honors.

- **Youth & Philanthropy Initiative**

Kelso High School are the first school in the Scottish Borders to be part of YPI, a very exciting opportunity for all our young people in S3. The Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) is an active citizenship programme that raises awareness among young people about philanthropy. The pupils worked well in small teams, to consider the needs of their local community and identify a grassroots social service charity they believe can make a positive contribution. Having been guided on how to analyse the charity's management and strategy, they are encouraged to build relationships with the charity and then exercise their skills in advocacy and public speaking to make a case as to why their proposed charity should be awarded £3000. During the final on Friday 19th, six charities were showcased by the pupils in front of a judging panel and their peers. I was very impressed and proud of the standards and skills demonstrated.

This year the winning charity was Monteviot RDA and they received a cheque for £3000. Well done and thank you to all involved and this is now the start to a yearly event for our S3 pupils.

- **Pupil Parliament Assemblies**

The Pupil Parliament were able to share with the rest of the school the progress that they are making with their agreed areas for improvement.

- **Senior Pupil Parliament:** they are reviewing our House System and would like to re-launch House activities and agree how pupils can gain house points throughout the year.
- **Junior Pupil Parliament:** they are launching the new school uniform, at present they asked pupils to complete an online survey to ensure views of all are considered.

- **World Book Day 2016**

Kelso High School's celebration of 2016 World Book Day happened a day early here at KHS on Wednesday 2nd March as Reading was celebrated all across the school. Colourful posters adorned classroom doors highlighting each teacher's favourite childhood series of books, the Grand Final took place of the Interhouse World Book Day Quiz with worthy winners Teviot snatching victory in a closely fought contest from Kale and Bowmont and the Grand Final of the S1 World Book Day Quiz saw Alice Rea and Suzanna Robson crowned 2016 Champions.

- **Sporting Achievements**

Curling: Angus Bryce (S2) has had a busy term on the ice, most recently reaching the Quarter finals of the Scottish Schools Championships. Earlier in the term, he won a Silver medal competing at U21 level at the Scottish Championships.

Equestrian Vaulting: Minta Younger (S1) and Aimee Gillie (S3) have been selected to compete for the South of Scotland at a Vaulting competition in the The Netherlands in April.

Hockey: Three players from the 1st XI have recently been selected for National squads, reward for their hard work and commitment to Hockey.

Tara Aitchison (S5) has been selected for the Scotland U18 squad due to play Ireland in a 3 match series at the end of March. Aimee Martin and Lucy Murray (both S4) have been selected for the Scotland U16 girls Development squad to travel to Holland to compete in the HDM tournament, also at the end of this month.

Rugby: Dan Gamble (S3) and Matthew Kindness (S4) have been selected for the Scottish U16 Rugby squad travelling to Wales to play in the Conwy International Rugby tournament with teams from Wales, France and Italy.

Their selection was based upon performances in the Regional Championship where several other KHS pupils represented the Borders with distinction. These were Jack Docherty (S3), Robert Hastie (S4), Liam Herdman (S4) and Ed Withall (S4).

The KHS U16 team (with boys from both S3 and S4) won a National title at BT Murrayfield at the beginning of March, lifting the Scottish Rugby National Plate in 29-12 victory over Caithness Schools. This was a fantastic achievement for the boys and a result of many years of dedication to their Sport and the support they have received from parents, coaches and the wider Kelso Community, especially their sponsor C & R Tyres.

Skiing: Robbie Tweedie (S4) recently competed for KHS in the Artemis InterSchools event in Les Houches, France. Robbie performed very well in a highly competitive field and qualified for the British U16s Championships.

Swimming: At the Scottish School Championships earlier in the term Amy Richardson (S3) came second in the final of the 200m Butterfly. This is a fantastic achievement given the strength of the Scottish Swimming scene just now. Well done Amy!

In the recent East District Age Group Championships Erika Coupek (S2) medalled in five events, achieving Gold in both the 100 and 200 metre backstroke, Silver in the 50 metre backstroke and 100 metre freestyle and a Bronze in the 50 metre freestyle.

Staffing:

- Sue Guthrie, our librarian, will retire on 31st March following 26years service
- Jill Cholak will be joining the Maths department after Easter as a permanent member
- Chris Stirling will also be joining the Maths department from August

Forthcoming Events:

- Student Drama - "I've Been Expecting You, Mr Smirk." -Tuesday 22nd/Wednesday 23rd Mar
- KHS Exhibition of Work - Thursday 21st April from 6pm until 8pm in the Craft Design & Technology, Art & Design and Music Departments.
- Last day for S6 pupils – Thursday 28th April
- INSET – Friday 29th April

PARENT COUNCIL 21/03/2016

Main Account

No activity since last report, current £846.41 (Statement dated 27 Feb 2016)

Lottery Account

Current is £4876.36 (Statement dated 6 March 2016)

There was a £1000 winner at the end of February, this has not yet come off the account balance.

So carry forward will be £3876.36

