

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KELSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2024 IN PERSON



Attendance - Harriet Campbell (Chair), Leri Payne (Vice Chair), Jill Lothian (Head Teacher), Nicola Robertson, Jeanette Aitchison, Ally Brown, Sonya Nairn, Euan Robson, Clare Hicks, Anna Rodwell, Beth Cameron-Lyle and Kirsty Banks.

Apologies – N/A

Chairperson Harriet Campbell and Vice Chairperson Leri Payne welcomed everyone to the meeting.

As this is the first meeting of the session there is no set agenda, all discussion welcome.

Head Teacher's Report

Staffing Updates

We welcomed new staff at the start of term:

- C Holmes – Teacher of English
- G Walkup – Teacher of Biology
- I Ibiyemi – Teacher of Maths
- J Kerr – Business Manager
- C Millar – Teacher of Art returned from maternity leave
- Expressive Arts PT (maternity leave) – interviews next week
- G Warner – returned after his absence

Absent staff

- Long term absence currently in Biology, CDT, Business Studies and German

Outstanding Items – to be completed prior to the end of this term

- **Respectful Relationships & Anti Bullying:** still to be uploaded to our school website
- **School strapline:** Engage young people and staff to agree our strapline.
- **Mobile phones:** reviewed based on Education Scotland and shared via weekly update and on our website

SQA Exams and Celebrations of Learning

The school was proud to announce the significant achievements of its young people during the 2023-2024 academic session in August 2024.

This session saw a notable change in the S4 curriculum, allowing young people to study seven National qualifications, an increase from previous years. Despite a slight decrease in teaching time to accommodate this change, learners and staff rose to the occasion, demonstrating remarkable effort and adaptability. Additionally, new offerings such as SQA Employability and Scots Language were introduced within the S4 curriculum as part of the Wider Achievement program.

Continuing a positive trend, S6 learners have successfully added value to their qualifications, setting them up for future success. Many are now ready to embark on their positive destinations.

Our plan to hold our annual Celebration of Learning evening within the Tait Hall are well underway. With a larger capacity we can invite more family and friends to the evening along with adding more award eg HT Achievement Awards.

Events

- 9th Sept Senior Celebration of Learning – Tait Hall
- 9th & 10th Sept S3-S5 INSPIRE ipads refresh
- 28th September Wellness Fayre

School Trips

As a school we are increasing our offer of a range of experiences for our learners outside of school. Already offered this month:

- History Trip to Paxton House
- Geography Trip to Lake District
- Physics Competition in Glasgow
- Archaeology Trip to Bedrule
- Mod Studs Trip to London

In May/June 2025 there a number of planned trips to France and the Scottish Cairngorms.

School Priorities for 2024-25

1. Learning, Teaching and Assessment

- Develop an inclusive classroom culture across the school that embeds our visions and values
- Increase staff confidence around BGE moderation and how we associate this with a Skills Framework
- Continue to develop Adaptive Teaching
- Embed the use of 'Mode B' teaching

2. Inclusion and the promotion of Wellbeing and Nurture- Focus on Attendance

- Build an inclusive and nurturing environment that encourages our learners to attend school.
- Maintain open communication between KHS, parents/carers, and learners regarding attendance matters.
- Ensure that our learners attend school regularly and attend their classes.
- Provide support to our learners and their families to improve and maintain good attendance and returning to school after a period of absence.
- Ensure clarity and consistency for all staff in matters related to school attendance.
- Reduce the number of our learners who are absent from class and/or school
- Develop protocol around flexi-schooling, build-up timetables, alternative timetables.

Questions / Discussion

PC offering refreshments at the Celebration of Learning event – Sonya to arrange. To see how the initial event goes and then expand on it in the future.

Discussion around Battlefields Trip, this stopped due to COVID and has been cost prohibitive since then.

Treasurers' Report

Lottery Account

The balance of the PC Lottery account as of 05.09.24 is £2,035.55.

There are currently 291 active lines. This equates to £145.50 going into the prize fund and £145.50 into the account for funding requests.

The next lottery draw will take place on Friday 28.06.24. The prize fund will be approximately £145.50.

The prize fund of £1000 was won on 28.08.24 by Jill Leavey – Congratulations!!

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £1,890.55

Funding Requests

Dr Barrie – AH Biology Residential Field	£1188.00
Mrs Cameron-Lyle – Comms/Literacy Blood Brothers Theatre Trip	£210.00

Discussions round the two bids received and it was agreed that the PC would donate £300 to each bid.

Zoom Renewal	£155.88
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Agreed to continue with Zoom for this session however to contact the primary school parent councils regarding whether they use this and if no to move to Teams when up for renewal again July 2025.

Main Account

The balance of the PC Main account as of 05.09.24 is £908.41

No activity on this account since the last meeting.

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £908.41

The 2023/24 accounts have been finalised and passed to Jacke Nairn to audit.

Leri gave an update on the SBC Parent Council Chairs meeting:

Planning a cluster meeting with SBC.

Parent Council Engagement sessions arranged – Thursday 26th September at KHS (7-8.30pm).

New Lead Educational Psychologist Cathy Davidson is taking on Mental Health and formulating a plan.

Wellness Fayre being held at KHS on Saturday 28th September (10.00am – 2.00pm), 32 stalls have signed up so far. Looking for sports clubs or anyone with affiliation to a sports club? Any help running workshops would be greatly appreciated.

Priorities for the Session:

- Wellbeing / Mental Health
- Social Media – phones / iPads / technology
- Revision Sessions
- Head Team representation at meetings
- Pupil Parliament attending meetings
- Uniform – boundaries
- Curriculum – how it works at KHS
- Behaviour
- Neurodiversity / Support for Learning
- Budgets – iPad / Printing

Date of Next Meeting

Date of next meeting will be Wednesday 2nd October in person at 7.00pm and will also include the AGM.

Harriet thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.