

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KELSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2024 IN PERSON



Attendance - Harriet Campbell (Chair), Leri Payne (Vice Chair), Jill Lothian (Head Teacher), Julie McIntosh, Jo Pennington, Jennifer Middlemiss, Nicola Robertson, Kirsty Banks, Lewis Malone (S6 Head Team) and Grace Henderson (S6 Head Team)

Apologies - Sonya Nairn, Pam Guthrie, A Rodwell, Ian Aitchison and Jeanette Aitchison.

Chairperson Harriet Campbell welcomed everyone to the meeting and made the introductions.

Minutes of Previous Meeting - Minutes from 11.06.24 and 05.09.24 were discussed and approved by Julie McIntosh.

Matters Arising / Chairs Report

Not much to report except there was an SBC Parent Council Chairs Forum at KHS on 26th September. Unfortunately Harriet and Leri were unable to attend however Pam Guthrie did attend as PC for Broomlands - update to be provided.

Head Teacher's Report

Whole School Updates

Staffing Updates

- Warm welcome back to Alastair Martin (CDT) who returned to school this week.
- Appointed an Acting PT Expressive Arts – Mr Davies (start date tbc)
- Interviews planned for our Information Technician Post following the departure of Dave McMillan.

Absent staff

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

Staff Adverts

- Currently 'live adverts' for Biology and Art

Highlights from this month:

- Monday 9th of September was a truly special evening on our KHS calendar - our annual Celebration of Learning Senior Awards Evening. Held for the first time in the Tait Hall to allow as many people as possible to attend, this was an opportunity to celebrate the success of over 100 of our young people and to welcome families, distinguished guests and friends of the wider KHS community to join with us in celebrating the magnificent achievements of our young people.

We are also delighted to announce that this year's winner of the 'Freedom of Kelso High School Award' is Dr John Darlington.

John's wife kindly recorded his speech and he will share the link to the YouTube channel to allow us to share with the wider school community.

- Saturday 28th of September, in partnership with Medical Practice KHS hosted a fantastic Kelso Community Wellness Fayre. From 10am-2pm, we welcomed members of our community to wander around the 35-40 stalls along with the opportunity to attend taster sessions featuring local gyms, AND various mindfulness sessions. Feedback was very positive.
- Blood Brothers: thank you from Beth Cameron-Lyle for the donation to this trip, pupils were delighted and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of the theatre.
- Clock Off - S1 Sleep Ambassadors worked with Glasgow University and will be leading discussions amongst the S1 cohort around the use of screen time and the importance of getting a good nights sleep.
- Apple Distinguished Schools 2024-2027: We are pleased to announce that KHS has been re-accredited for the next period of 2024-2027 as an Apple Distinguished School.

This remains an (intimate in Scotland) but global community of schools identified for their sector leading innovative, inspirational and impactful use of apple tech to enhance and transform learning for the benefit of young people, staff and the wider school community.

- Attainment Review Faculty Meeting – take place with each PTC
- SQA Appeals - KHS will be notified of the outcome of our appeals tomorrow and this will then be filtered out to pupils and parents.

Events

- 4th October Colour Run 1.45pm-2.45pm
- 11th October 'Bring anything but a bag to school'
- 22nd October Drama Theatre Trip
- 23rd October S1 Parent Information Evening
- 30th October Buddy Halloween social

SBC Pre-Inspection Review

Kelso High School welcomed a review team from Scottish Borders Council, including officers and senior leaders on Tuesday 24th Sept. During the visit the team talked to young people, the leadership team, staff, partners as well as observing young people in their learning.

The focus of the review were the following quality indicators (HGIOS 4?)

Q.I. 2.3	Learning, teaching and assessment
Q.I. 3.2	Raising attainment and achievement

The team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- Positive relationships are evident in almost all classes between staff and young people and young people across the school are polite, friendly and proud of their school.
- The DHT and pedagogy team provide clear and detailed guidance and structures to support staff to improve the quality of their teaching, this is leading to a positive culture of improvement across the school.
- A strong focus on improving the quality of teaching has been introduced in faculty meetings, CLPL and whole school staff development sessions. This will support the quality of delivery in classes.
- Learners experienced a consistent structure to most lessons, with the Kelso LTA Toolkit supporting teachers to think about and plan for important components of delivering their teaching.
- In most lessons learning intentions and success criteria are used to support young people to understand their learning and they are able to talk about what success could look like, In the strongest lessons prior learning is used to build knowledge and skills of young people and moving learning forward at pace.
- The majority of young people are engaged in their learning and interact well during activities.

The following next steps were identified and discussed with the Head Teacher:

- There is a need to ensure learning is differentiated, varied and provides effective support and challenge, providing learners with opportunities to be more cognitively engaged in learning
- Learning needs to more consistently enhanced and supported by effective use of digital technologies, building on the good practice that currently exists in some classes across the school.
- A greater focus on pace of learning for all young people would ensure that learning more accurately matched learners needs and abilities.
- The quality of the learning activities in a lesson should be further developed to ensure young people are making good progress in their learning.

Life at KHS

Grace and Lewis from the S6 Head Team came along to the meeting and discussed the plans that the current S6 have for the year. They have been presenting at all year group assemblies this week and shared the presentation to us – very informative.

Discussion around the recent Celebration of Learning, this was all very positive and will look at how we can build on this for next year.

Discussion around uniform, we are unable to enforce a mandatory uniform and is about working with pupils and families. This should not be a barrier to learning.

Discussion around behaviour as well and the Merits and Demerits system. It is felt by some that these don't mean anything and pupils 'don't care'. How can we engage parents to deal with this more effectively at home?

Discussion around Respectful Relationships, are the QR still being used by pupils? Not really being used by pupils, not sure if this is due to pupils being embarrassed to use.

Discussion around pupils vaping in school. Toilets are checked during break and lunchtime and pupils chased out however is very difficult to prove if you do not actually witness it. Parent reports that this is happening in the PE changing rooms too?

Treasurers' Report

Lottery Account

The balance of the PC Lottery account as of 02.10.24 is £1,698.55.

There are currently 305 active lines. This equates to £152.50 going into the prize fund and £152.50 into the account for funding requests.

The next lottery draw will take place on Monday 28.10.24. The prize fund will be approximately £300.00.

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

A payment of £600 was made for the two successful bids from the last meeting; AH Biology Trip and Blood Brothers Trip.

The furniture for the S6 area has not all arrived as yet (hopefully by the end of this week) therefore we have not been invoiced. This will be approximately £700 as per previous bid agreed.

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £698.55

Funding Requests

N/A

Main Account

The balance of the PC Main account as of 05.09.24 is £1013.55.

PC Reps served refreshments at the recent Celebration of Learning Evening and made £105.14 which was paid into the account.

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £1013.55

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

Date of Next Meeting

Date of next meeting was scheduled to be on Tuesday 5th November however due to Bonfire Night events this has been moved to Thursday 7th November at 7.00pm via Zoom.

Harriet thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.