

BELMONT ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

APPROVED Minute of Meeting

Wed 30 April 2025 at 6.30pm

School Library



PRESENT:

Parent Members: Susan Bell (Chairperson), Josephine Docherty (Secretary), Aynsley Lawrence, Emma Brown, Lucinda Ferguson-Hunter, Kate Ludkin, Lyssa McCartney, Lorna Russell & Vicky Pang.

Staff Members: Kevin Boyd (Head Teacher), Graeme McLean (Depute Head Teacher), Ian Watson (Principle Teacher Guidance), Lynsey Pollock (Principal Teacher Modern Studies and History), & Jade O'Hara (Principal Teacher Modern Languages)

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chair, Susan Bell, welcomed everyone to the meeting and intimated apologies on behalf of David Bulloch, David Codling, Rosemary Logie, Heather Knox, Jonathan Hagen, Karen Donn, Karen McGimpsey & Lesley Strain.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting (26th March 2025)

The Minute of the last meeting held on 26th March 2025 was approved by Lynsey Pollock and seconded by Lorna Russell, as a true record of that meeting.

3. Matters Arising

- a) Pupil survey – carry forward; do on summer term. **ACTION: Emma Brown**
- b) Gambling licence – See update under Treasurer's Report. **ACTION: David Bulloch**
- c) Bank account change – See update under Treasurer's Report. **ACTION: David Bulloch**
- d) Pop-up charity shop (Maybole) – See update under Belmont Funding Futures. **ACTION: Emma Brown**

4. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, David Bulloch, was unable to attend the meeting, retrospective update supplied via email 24 May, as follows:

Bank Balance

	Opening Balance	£1725.41
	Income	Outgoings
Income (Square App)	£89.38	
Outgoings (Bank Service Fee)		£4.25
	Closing Balance	£1810.54

Virgin Bank account – not yet opened.

Gambling Licence – no update, check status with Treasurer at next meeting.

New Treasurer – no-one has put their name forward, Josephine Docherty agreed to take on this role on an interim basis, until AGM in Sept, given that David Bulloch will be stepping down from Parent Council,

BELMONT ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

APPROVED Minute of Meeting

Wed 30 April 2025 at 6.30pm

School Library



5. Modern Languages PT Update (Jade O'Hara)

Miss O'Hara (Principal Teacher, Modern Languages) has been in post for the past year. She gave parent council members an overview of the department and explained:

- a) Staffing – the department is fully staffed with 1 x Principal Teacher (J O'Hara), 2 x full time modern languages teachers (S Boyd & O Frachisse) and 1 x newly qualified teacher (probationer), E Blain. It is likely that the department will reduce to 3 full time staff next year, with no NQT likely.
- b) Modern languages pathways –
 - S1 ½ year each French and Spanish languages (2 sessions per week)
 - S2 ½ year each French and Spanish languages (3 sessions per week)
 - S3 either French or Spanish (3 sessions per week)
 - Senior phase – National 3/4/5 and Higher courses covering culture, society, learning and employability units. Higher and Advanced Higher offer the chance to develop translation skills.
- c) S3 tourism challenge – in partnership with Stewart Travel, pupils were tasked to budget and plan a holiday for 3 demographics – S6 year group, elderly couple, family of 4. The pupils designed posters and developed a brief for each scenario posed. The winners of the challenge received an Amazon gift card and other treats from Stewart Travel.
- d) Potential trips (UK and abroad) – To support the modern languages taught in school, the department are exploring options for a future trip to France (Paris) for S2/S3 pupils in 2026 (4 days, 3 nights B&B), this has been costed at circa £826. They have also costed a Spanish trip (Barcelona), (4 days, 3 nights B&B) and this will cost circa £1,000. There are alternative options being explored for UK based trips also and hope to offer a summer trip, as well as a winter option – which will encompass the French and Spanish culture in the form of restaurant visits, book or film festivals and additionally (within classroom settings) an option to host a French/Spanish breakfast.
- e) Future plans – Miss O'Hara will look to improve the Broad General Experience (BGE) within Belmont Academy and will progress the option of foreign/UK trip options. She will also look to increase and maintain the uptake within the senior year groups. Already, in the past year, numbers have doubled, which is encouraging.

Emma Brown advised Miss O'Hara of a potential partnership opportunity with the University of Paris, they agreed to discuss this matter off table.

6. Pastoral Update (Ian Watson)

- a) **Guidance Team Update** – all 5 houses have appointed Guidance Teachers:
 - Arran – Mrs L Ferguson
 - Bute – Mr I Watson
 - Cumbræ - Miss R Dunlop & Miss Fulton (Acting)
 - Kintyre – Mrs C Bryden
 - Lomond – Miss N Melville
- b) **Sports Day** – Belmont Academy will be reinstating Sports Day for the junior school S1-S3, with an event scheduled to take place at Riverside Stadium (Dam Park) on Fri 2nd May. Pupils may opt in/out and it is anticipated there will be 200 – 300 in attendance.
- c) **Broader General Education (BGE)** – the school are exploring options to deliver information to pupils either in registration or assembly sessions covering topics including: railway safety, safer shores, wild fires, screen time (in conjunction with mobile phone policy).

BELMONT ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

APPROVED Minute of Meeting

Wed 30 April 2025 at 6.30pm

School Library



7. Belmont Funding Futures Update (Emma Brown)

a) **Charity shop** fundraising event at Maybole raised:

In-store collections £1607

Rag Man collection £92

Ebay sales (to date) £80

TOTAL £1779

There remains some items for sale on Ebay – Emma Brown will provide an update at the next meeting in relation to these items. **ACTION: Emma Brown**

This money will be donated to the school, to help fund future awards trips for pupils.

b) **Kilt Walk (Glasgow)** - Teaching staff took part in this recent charity event and monies raised from sponsorship would also be added to the pupils' awards trips fund – final total to be confirmed.

ACTION: Kevin Boyd

c) **Calendar of Events for 2025/26** – Emma Brown will develop a calendar of events for academic year 2025/26, with support sought from parent council members for these events going forward.

ACTION: Emma Brown

8. Head Teacher's Update (Kevin Boyd)

a) **Staffing**

Overall our current staffing levels are very good. We still have two members of staff on long term absence; however, their posts have been filled for some time.

Mr Watson has provided an update on changes to the Guidance Team and I wish Nina Melville and Ashleigh Fulton well in their new roles.

We have no outstanding vacancies to be filled. Bids for NQTs have been submitted and we will find out our allocation in mid-May.

b) **S6 Leavers' Trip**

The S6 Leavers' Trip and BBQ on Wednesday, 23 April was a great success (with the added bonus of sunshine) and feedback from young people was extremely positive. Once again, I will send a thank you letter to Kilwinning Sports Centre along with a donation to convey our ongoing appreciation of their support. Thanks also to Mrs Flanagan for leading sixth year and for co-ordinating the day to be such a success.

c) **S6 Teacher Appreciation Awards Ceremony**

S6 students organised an awards ceremony for teachers on Wednesday, 2 April to recognise and thank teachers for their support over their time at the Academy. This was the second time this has taken place and was a superb event that was very well received from staff.

d) **SQA Examinations**

I am delighted to report that the SQA examination diet has started smoothly and we are up and running. Pupil attendance for Computing, Psychology, Music, Geography, Admin and Graphics has been excellent and we are reasonably happy with the papers so far. The exam diet continues with Chemistry tomorrow.

I wish all our SP students every success for the SQA diet. As I have said previously to parents/carers of SP students, I hope that your fridge is well stocked, and you experience some

BELMONT ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

APPROVED Minute of Meeting

Wed 30 April 2025 at 6.30pm

School Library



brief moments of peace and tranquillity. We know what a stressful time this can be for families, and this was why we delivered SAMH Workshops earlier in the session.

e) S1 Roll

Our new S1 predicted roll is sitting at approximately **200** pupils. Despite almost all secondary rolls falling, we remain the largest secondary school and our whole school roll remains to be very healthy.

9. Any Other Business

- a) End of term PC Dinner – Josephine circulated a poll for a preferred date and location – poll will close 14th May and preferred date advised to PC Members. Josephine to book restaurant, accordingly. **ACTION: Josephine Docherty**
- b) Director of Education (Lyndsay McRoberts) – PC members noted Ms McRoberts is set to leave South Ayrshire Council, to take up a new role at South Lanarkshire Council (summer 2025). Mr Boyd confirmed this was the case, Ms McRoberts will be involved in the recruitment for his successor. Ms McRoberts is scheduled to visit Belmont Academy later in the week to review the annual improvement plan.
- c) Change of timetable – this year, students will commence their new timetable 2 weeks earlier than normal, as follows:
 - New S2/3/4 start 19/05/25.
 - New S6 induction day 29/05/25. New S5 induction day 30/05/25.
 - New S2/3/4 start 02/06/25.
- d) P7 Information Evening – this is scheduled for Thursday 12th June. Susan Bell will link with cluster primary schools to advise them of the work of the parent council and to seek new parent members. **ACTION: Susan Bell**

a) Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parent Council will take place on **Wednesday 28th May 2025 at 6.30pm** in the **Conference Room** within Belmont Academy.