



In Attendance

Parents: Aynsley Lawrence, David Codling, Emma Brown (Deputy Chairperson), Gail Aitken, John Malakoty, Jonathan Hagen, Josephine Docherty (Secretary), Karen Donn, Lewis Hedge, Lisa Thomson, Lyssa McCartney, Michelle Gass, Niall Finnie, Rachel Jesson & Susan Bell (Chairperson)

Staff: Kevin Boyd (Head Teacher), Lynsey Pollock (Principal Teacher – Modern Studies & History)

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chair, Susan Bell, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted from Graeme McLean (Depute Head Teacher), Ian Watson (Principal Teacher – Guidance), and parent members - Dawn McMillan, Heather Knox (Treasurer), Lucinda Ferguson-Hunter, Melanie Baird, Natalie Blackwell, Nicola Tomkinson, plus School Captains Aimee, Carys, Hope & Saskia.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minute of the meeting held on 25 September 2025 was approved:

- Proposed by: Lyssa McCartney
- Seconded by: Rachel Jesson

3. Matters Arising

- a) Gambling Licence: This is now in place. **CLOSE ACTION**
- b) Pop-up Shop: Confirmed for 31 Oct – 6 Nov at The Gathering, Maybole, 9am – 4pm (closed Sun 2nd Nov). Parent volunteers noted for each day. Donations may be dropped off at school or at the shop in Maybole until Wed 4th Nov. Parking is available in the old Co-Op car park on the Main St. **CLOSE ACTION**
- c) Calendar of Events: Emma Brown circulated a list of events running October–June. Volunteers needed for ticketing, raffles, hospitality. **Action: All Parent Members**
- d) Accounts: Last year's accounts not yet audited. Susan Bell to follow up with David Bulloch. **Action: David Bulloch / Susan Bell**

4. School Captain's Update – via Mr Boyd

School Captains were not in attendance, but they provided the following update on recent and upcoming pupil-led initiatives, via Mr Boyd:

- a) **Mental Health Awareness Day**
A Mental Health Awareness Day was held successfully, raising over £600 for the local charity 'Believe Ayrshire'. Activities included a non-uniform day where pupils and staff were encouraged to wear green, alongside a bake sale and karaoke session. These efforts aimed to promote awareness of mental health and its importance. The captains expressed pride in the collective efforts of the Belmont community.



b) **S6 Halloween Disco**

The Captains noted their absence from the meeting due to their involvement in the S6 Halloween Disco, which forms part of the wider S6 experience. Attendees were encouraged to bring food donations in support of a local food bank.

c) **Children in Need – Upcoming Event**

Planning is underway for Children in Need activities. The school will be participating in the '25 Challenge' to raise sponsorship and intends to host a week of inclusive activities for the whole school community.

5. Treasurer's Report – via Ms Bell

Newly appointed Treasurer, Heather Knox, submitted her apologies for the meeting. Susan advised that the accounts from last term had not yet been audited and previous Treasurer, David Bulloch was in the process of transferring the bank account to Virgin Money. The current bank balance was reported to have £1445.93 in funds (Bank of Scotland account), with circa £32 to be added from S1 parent evening refreshments.

6. Pastoral Update – via Mr Boyd

a) **Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)**

Currently there are **73 applications** in progress, **11** have been **sent to UCAS** and the remaining **62** are **yet to start their references**.

b) **S1 Transition Survey**

There were 191 responses, with pupils ranking the following either strongly agree/agree/disagree/strongly disagree:

- ***I feel welcome and safe at Belmont*** (65% agree, 32% strongly agree, 3% disagree)
- ***I have had a very good experience during my first two weeks at Belmont*** (60% agree, 36% strongly agree, 4% disagree)
- ***I have felt supported by my S6 buddies*** (58% agree, 34% strongly agree, 8% disagree)
- ***I have felt supported by my classmates*** (65% agree, 30% strongly agree, 4% disagree, 1% strongly disagree)
- ***I know who my Guidance Teacher is and how I can speak to them*** (50% strongly agree, 48% agree, 2% disagree)
- ***If I had any issues/concerns I would feel happy to speak to my Guidance Teacher*** (51% agree, 42% strongly agree, 6% disagree, 1% strongly disagree)



7. Belmont Funding Futures – Emma Brown

- The Maybole pop-up charity shop will run for one week (see details under 'Matters Arising').
- Parent Council members will attend the three-day *Grease the Musical* show, where they will sell raffle tickets and run a tuck shop. The school will sell programmes, with proceeds going to the music department. The Parent Council also agreed to fund a personalised *Grease* ticket memento for all pupils involved in the production.
- The Christmas Concert will take place on 11th December at Castlehill Church. David Codling has volunteered to support the event. **Action: D Codling**
- Funds raised by the Parent Council will be allocated to the school to help cover the cost of buses for awards trips or the hire of a bouncy castle for the first tranche of awards days during the final week of term. This initiative was well received last year and helps encourage pupil attendance in the lead-up to the Christmas holidays.

8. Head Teacher's Update – Kevin Boyd

a) Staffing Updates

- The preferred candidate for the Principal Teacher (PT) of Biology post withdrew unexpectedly. Miss Emma Dalgleish has assumed the role of Acting PT Biology, with Miss Melissa Watt (former NQT) covering the resulting vacancy.
- Miss Chloe Elliot is now Acting DYW Coordinator, covering for Miss Dalgleish.
- There are currently three long-term staff absences, one of which has continued from the previous session.
- Miss Rebekah Winter has returned (0.6 FTE) to Business Education following maternity leave. Staffing remains challenging in this department, with Mrs Hitchman (PT) absent. Mrs Anne Nicol and Miss Winter have provided significant support.
- There are no subject specialist cover teachers available in South Ayrshire for Business Education, and no external support for Higher Economics delivery. Mrs McCaig (DHT) has communicated directly with affected students and their parents/carers.
- Mr Alan Bryden (DHT – Pupil Support) is currently absent. Due to the specialised nature of his remit, the school is carefully considering short-term cover arrangements.

b) Departmental Validated Self-Evaluation (VSE)

- The VSE programme commenced this week with the Computing department. Each departmental review spans 1–2 days and includes presentations, lesson observations, pupil and staff focus groups.
- Six departments have been reviewed to date, with all 17 departments scheduled for completion by June 2027.



c) School Improvement Visit

- The School Improvement Visit is scheduled for 4–5 November 2025, focusing on learning, teaching, and assessment.
- The Head Teacher expressed appreciation to Parent Council members who plan to attend the parental focus group on Wednesday morning, with a broad representation from most year groups able to participate.

d) S1 Parents' Evening

- Parent Council members were thanked for their assistance during the S1 Parents' Evening held on Tuesday.
- 76% of S1 parents/carers (148 individuals) made bookings, with 95% of those attending - an increase of 16% from the previous year.
- Overall attendance was 72%.
- While some parents/carers were unable to meet all desired teachers due to school size constraints, verbal feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Miss Gibson (DHT) will continue efforts to enhance parental engagement.

e) Supported Study Programme

- A wide range of supported study sessions is being delivered this session, with a focus on Senior Phase.
- Details are available on the school website under 'Pupils/Supported Study' and will be regularly updated. Mr McLean (DHT) will promote this provision to pupils and parents/carers.

9. Any Other Business

- a) Clothing Bank – it was agreed the Parent Council would explore the option of a clothing bank being placed at/near the school, with funds raised going back to the school. Heathfield Primary has something similar – Susan agreed to link with them to explore this further. **ACTION: S Bell**
- b) It was noted that the Co-Op community fund is not yet open for applications.
- c) A full diary of school events can be found on the school website. [Click here](#) for link.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 26 November 2025
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: School Library (1st Floor), Belmont Academy