

# BELMONT ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting  
Wed 26 November 2025 at 6.30pm  
School Conference Room



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## IN ATTENDANCE

**Parents:** Susan Bell (Chairperson), Emma Brown (Vice Chair), Josephine Docherty (Secretary), David Codling, Dawn McMillan, Jacqueline Geddes, Jonathan Hagen, Karen Donn, Katie Ludkin, Lee Geddes, Lewis Hedge, Lisa Thomson, Melanie Baird, Michelle Gass, Natalie Blackwell, Niall Finnie and Rachel Jesson.

**Staff:** Kevin Boyd (Head Teacher), Graeme McLean (Depute Head Teacher), and Ian Watson (Principal Teacher – Guidance).

**Pupils:** Aimee (School Captain)

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### 1. Welcome & Apologies

Chair, Susan Bell, welcomed everyone to the meeting and intimated apologies on behalf of Aynsley Lawrence, Gail Aitken, Heather Knox (Treasurer), John Malakoty, Lucinda Ferguson-Hunter, Lyssa McCartney and Lynsey Pollock (Principal Teacher – Modern Studies & History)

### 2. Update from PE Department

Mr Iain Phillips, Principal Teacher of PE, provided an overview of the work of the PE Department across the BGE and Senior Phase. He outlined the department's core aims, which focus on maximising participation, developing physical competence, improving fitness and wellbeing, and encouraging lifelong engagement in physical activity.

In the BGE phase, pupils receive two periods of PE per week in mixed-sex classes. They typically experience nine different activities across the year, delivered in five-week blocks, with a total of 12–18 activities covered across S1 and S2. The curriculum is structured around physical competencies, personal qualities, physical fitness and cognitive skills, with clear progression from Second to Fourth Level to prepare pupils for the Senior Phase.

Mr Phillips explained how the department ensures pace, challenge and continuity, and described the skill expectations for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher PE. He also highlighted the Health and Wellbeing course and the continued focus on participation and personal development within Senior Phase Core PE.

An update was provided on the Belmont Academy Rugby Programme, which aims to develop pupils' physical competence, technical and tactical understanding, leadership, communication and resilience. A typical week includes technical skills sessions, gym-based training and conditioned games, with increased opportunities for inter-school competition.

Information was shared on the S3 Skills Electives in Performance, Coaching and Refereeing, and the wider vocational pathway, which includes coaching qualifications, practical delivery experience, and primary school placements. Mr Phillips also highlighted the pupils involved in the school's Leadership Academy.

He reported strong academic outcomes within the department. National 5 PE has the highest presentation numbers in the authority, with pupils performing on average 0.85 bands better than in their other subjects. Higher PE pupils perform 0.75 bands better, and Advanced Higher pupils perform 1.7 bands better, contributing significantly to whole-school attainment. This success is supported by rigorous tracking, early intervention, extra-curricular sport, choice-based Core PE, masterclasses and supported study.

Mr Phillips outlined the extensive extra-curricular programme offered at lunchtimes and after school, covering a wide range of sports and activities across all year groups. He also described

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the department's approach to celebrating pupil success through "Pupil of the Block" awards, the Wall of Fame, and regular updates on the PE Department's Instagram page.

The department contributes widely to whole-school life, including interhouse competitions, sports championships, Christmas dances, Duke of Edinburgh support, school trips and the Sports Council.

Mr Phillips also highlighted the department's partnerships with organisations such as Active Schools, Eevo Gym, Old Prestwick Golf Club, local primaries, Leggat's Martial Arts, Caledonia West Volleyball, Ayr RFC, Vics in the Community and Ayr United.

Finally, he outlined current funding challenges, noting rising costs for transport, affiliation fees and equipment, as well as increased demand for spare kit. He acknowledged recent support from Vics in the Community and Ayr RFC for team kits, and explained that the Night Before Christmas Campaign, which previously supported spare kit provision, is no longer running. Planned fundraising includes a Sportathon in December, with funds protected from transport costs, and the continuation of the CAT fund, where pupils participating in sport contribute £20 annually.

The Parent Council agreed that the PE Department may run a raffle under the Parent Council's existing licence, as the school does not hold a licence of its own. **[Post Meeting Note – Mr Phillips confirmed the pre-Christmas raffle had raised circa £2,000]**

Parent Council members suggested that the school consider establishing a system for recycling sports clothing and footwear that pupils have outgrown but which remains in good condition, so that these items can be made available to other pupils who may benefit from them. Mr Phillips invited parents to consider the most appropriate way and timing for this to be carried out.

**ACTION: Parent Members**

### 3. Minutes of Last Meeting (29 Oct 2025)

It was noted that the discussion regarding training for S1 parents on the use of MS Teams had been omitted from the previous minute. The minute will be amended accordingly. Mr Boyd agreed to explore what training may be available.

**ACTION: Kevin Boyd**

Subject to this amendment, the Minute of the last meeting held on 29 Oct 2025 was approved by Michelle Gass and seconded by Aynsley Lawrence, as a true record of that meeting.

### 4. Matters Arising

- a) Calendar of events – Melanie Baird offered to assist David Codling at the Christmas Concert at Castlehill Church on 11 Dec.  
**ACTION: Melanie Baird**
- b) Accounts – Last year's accounts had not yet been audited. Susan Bell to follow up with David Bulloch.  
**ACTION: Susan Bell**
- c) Clothing Bank – Susan Bell currently has 50 bags of clothes for donating to the clothing bank, Rachel Jesson agreed to ask Doonfoot Primary how they had organised clothing bank collections.  
**ACTION: Rachel Jesson**

### 5. School Captains Update - Aimee

- a) **Halloween Disco** (joint between Kyle Academy and Belmont Academy) had raised £80. An enjoyable evening was had by all.
- b) **Mental Health Day** saw pupils and staff raise £600 for Ayrshire suicide prevention charity, Believe Ayrshire, between a bake sale, Karaoke and other fund-raising activities.

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- c) **Children in Need** benefited £1800 from Belmont Academy with a wealth of fund-raising activities including a bake sale, teachers v pupils football match (result 2-2), Mr Watson and Mr McAllister braved a head shave and School Vice-Captain, Carys, did a 5k run in aid of the charity too. The efforts of everyone who participated was applauded.
- d) **Remembrance Ceremonies** – pupil representatives from Belmont Academy laid wreaths at Alloway Auld Kirk as well as Castlehill Church and Ayr's Wellington Square. Additionally, there were House Assemblies on 11th Nov to mark Remembrance Day, including a 2-minute silence observed at 11am. Great respect and leadership were demonstrated throughout.
- e) **Christmas dances** are scheduled during Dec.
- f) Pupil Council will meet shortly to discuss **The Night Before Christmas** campaign.
- g) In January, planning will commence for **senior prom**, with a range of fund-raising activities scheduled.

## 6. Treasurer's Report (Heather Knox)

Heather was not present at the meeting to provide an update. Susan Bell noted income at recent events £**635.81** (tuck shop and raffle – Grease Musical), plus £**27** (S3 parents evening). Susan would hold on to the cash and contact Heather to determine if the new bank account had been opened, in order to bank the cash. (The £635 raised at the Grease event will be returned to the Drama Department, to support the department with delivery of future events).

**ACTION: S Bell / H Knox**

The Maybole pop-up shop had raised £**592.50**, and subsequent car boot sale raised a further £**122**. The remaining clothing will be donated to The Rag Bag and Susan will report the income generated from that in due course.

**ACTION: S Bell**

There was still no update from previous Treasurer, David Bulloch, for the end of year accounts for 2024/25 – Susan agreed to follow this up with David. He was also arranging transfer from Bank of Scotland to Virgin Bank, but it was unknown the status of the transfer. **ACTION: S Bell**

## 7. Pastoral Update (Ian Watson)

Mr Watson provided an update on key pastoral matters, beginning with an outline of **the options process for pupils** moving through to the senior phase. He explained that the number of subject choices varies depending on the year group and level of study, with pathways including school-based subjects, college courses, The South West Educational Improvement Collaborative (SWEIC) programmes, Young Applicants in Schools (YASS) modules and work placements. He highlighted the progression from broad subject choice in S1 and S2 through to more specialised pathways in S4–S6, noting the scheduled dates for each year group's options process early in the new year.

He informed the Parent Council that **Anti-Bullying Week** had taken place from 10–14 November, and a theatre company delivered a production with a focus on anti-bullying. Mrs McCaig had also put together lessons for all year groups S1-S6 in relation to bullying.

Mr Watson also provided an update on the planned **Poland trip** scheduled for Dec 2025, which includes a visit to Auschwitz as well as a trip to the salt mines and the Ghetto & Jewish Quarter tour in Krakow. An information session for parents had taken place earlier in the evening.

## 8. Belmont Funding Futures Update (Emma Brown)

- a) The **Maybole pop-up charity shop** which ran for a week at the beginning of the week had not proven as successful as the last event in the other Maybole shop, which was disappointing. However, between this event and the car boot sale, over £700 had been

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raised. Thanks were offered to all those who had donated and supported setting up and manning the shop during the course of the week.

Consideration will be granted to running another pop-up shop in April or May (week long), Susan will check availability and confirm in due course. **ACTION: Susan Bell**

b) The Parent Council funded a personalised **Grease ticket memento** for all pupils involved in the production.

c) The **Christmas Concert** will take place on 11th December at Castlehill Church. David Codling & Melanie Baird have volunteered to support the event.

**Action: David Codling/Melanie Baird**

d) Parents will support the **Art Exhibition** event taking place in school next week and raffle tickets will be sold in order to raise funds for the school.

e) There is a desire to run a '**Belmont's got Talent**' style fundraising event – School Captain, Aimee, agreed to liaise with fellow pupils and the senior management team, with a view to hosting an event Feb/Mar 2026. **ACTION: Aimee**

## 9. Head Teacher's Update (Kevin Boyd)

### a) Staffing

Mr Boyd reported that Alan Bryden, Depute Head Teacher, had returned to post on Monday. As a result, Mr Phillips and Mr Wilde had resumed their substantive roles.

He further advised that Mrs Hitchman, Principal Teacher of Business Education, was due to return the following day. Her phased return would ensure the department was fully staffed prior to the Christmas break.

### b) School Improvement Visit (SIV)

The Head Teacher noted that all parents and carers would shortly receive a letter outlining the strengths and next steps identified in relation to Learning, Teaching and Assessment. He advised that he would present the draft Summarised Findings Report to the Parent Council.

### c) Rights Respecting Schools (RRS)

Mr Boyd informed the Parent Council that the RRS seniors' improvement team wished to run a Toy Collection for the Salvation Army on Friday, 5 December. Pupils would be invited to donate either new or pre-loved toys, and House Points were planned to be awarded for contributions. Seniors would collect donations in the atrium during the soft start period.

### d) Incident on Monday, 24 November

The Head Teacher confirmed that a letter had been issued to all parents and carers on Monday afternoon regarding a classroom incident. He advised that he was willing to take any questions from the Parent Council in relation to the matter.

Parent members asked whether the pupil involved would be returning to Belmont Academy. Mr Boyd explained that he was unable to provide an answer whilst the investigation remained ongoing. He noted that a meeting involving the pupil, their parents and relevant external agencies was scheduled for the following week, and that no decision would be made until that meeting had taken place.

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## 10. Any Other Business

- a) Prelim Exams – Mr Boyd confirmed prelims for S5 would take place week commencing 12 January.
- b) AI Questionnaire – A number of parents had put their names forward for participation in an AI project – those who had completed the poll were asked to check their email for further instruction.

## 11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parent Council will take place on **Wednesday 28 Jan 2026 at 6.30pm** in the **School Library (1<sup>st</sup> floor)** within Belmont Academy.