

# BELMONT ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting  
Wed 31 Jan 2024 at 6.30pm  
Conference/e-Learning Room



## PRESENT:

Parent Members: Susan Bell (Chairperson), Emma Brown (Deputy Chair), Josephine Docherty (Secretary), Heather Knox, Jonathan Hagen, Karen Harley, Lorna Russell, Lyssa McCartney, Lesley Strain, Rosemary Logie, Karen McGimpsey, Kirsty Thomson & David Codling

Staff Members: Kevin Boyd (Head Teacher), Ian Watson (PT Guidance), Graeme McLean (Depute Head Teacher), Lynsey Pollock (Principal Teacher Modern Studies & History), Julie McCaig (Acting Depute Head)

Pupil Members: Caitlin M, Ross N (School Captains)

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b>															
	<p>Chair, Susan Bell, welcomed everyone to the meeting and intimated apologies on behalf of David Bulloch (Treasurer) &amp; Emma Boyle (Parent Member).</p> <p>Emily Hamilton and Mark Barnard have both stepped down from Belmont Parent Council and send their best wishes for the future success of the school.</p>															
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of Last Meeting (25th October 2023)</b>															
	<p>The Minute of the last meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023 was approved by Karen Harley and seconded by Graeme McLean, as a true record of that meeting.</p>															
<b>3.</b>	<b>School Captain's Update (Ross N &amp; Caitlin M)</b>															
a)	<p><b>Fund raising efforts for Children in Need</b> included: -</p> <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Mon</th><th>Tue</th><th>Wed</th><th>Thu</th><th>Fri</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Bake Sale</td><td>Soak the Teachers</td><td>Volleyball</td><td>Teachers v Pupils Football</td><td>Karaoke Dress-down Day</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">£247</td><td colspan="2">£213</td><td>£1086</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>In addition, the Home Economics Department raised £50, with a final total for Children in Need = £1596.</p>	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Bake Sale	Soak the Teachers	Volleyball	Teachers v Pupils Football	Karaoke Dress-down Day	£247		£213		£1086
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri												
Bake Sale	Soak the Teachers	Volleyball	Teachers v Pupils Football	Karaoke Dress-down Day												
£247		£213		£1086												
b)	<p><b>Remembrance Parade:</b> School Captains, along with Mr Boyd attended the Remembrance Parade at Alloway Auld Kirk on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov and laid a wreath at Wellington Square, along with School Captains from other local schools.</p>															
c)	<p><b>Christmas Concert:</b> On 11<sup>th</sup> Dec, the Christmas Concert was hosted by the Music Department and was very well received by all in attendance.</p>															
d)	<p><b>Meeting with Director of Education:</b> School Captains from around South Ayrshire will meet with Lyndsay McRoberts (Director of Education) at County Buildings week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb.</p>															
e)	<p><b>Christmas Dance:</b> The Christmas dance was a great success, with pupils from P7 feeder primary school in attendance, when they had an opportunity to see Belmont Academy.</p>															

# BELMONT ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting  
Wed 31 Jan 2024 at 6.30pm  
Conference/e-Learning Room



	S1/2 as well as Seniors had separate Christmas dances also. Reports were that they all had an enjoyable time.
f)	<b>The Night Before Christmas Fund-raiser:</b> Pupils worked along with Mrs Ross from the Technical Department and managed to raise circa £150 with candy-cane sales and door decoration efforts, which Mr Hardie won. Funds raised were passed to the charity.
g)	<b>Homework Club for S1-S3:</b> S6 pupils are offering support to younger pupils in S1-3 on Thursdays for 1 hour after school in the school library, in order to offer advice on subjects they themselves have previously studied, in order to assist with homework. One session has already been run, but attendance was poor, so efforts will be made to promote this further for future sessions.
h)	<b>Burns Supper:</b> School Captains will be in attendance along with Mr Boyd at a Burns Supper taking place on 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb. Mr Boyd will deliver the Immortal Memory.
i)	<b>Westminster Music Trip:</b> A group of Ayrshire musicians (including School Captain, Ross) made a trip to London and played in various areas within Westminster (Strangers Bar, Dover's Bar) as well as 10 Downing Street, where they met several politicians including Teresa May, Steven Flynn, Douglas Ross and various other MPs/MSPs.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Treasurer's Report</b>
To follow....(awaiting update from David Bulloch)	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Promoting Positive Behaviour (Julie McCaig – Acting Depute Head)</b>
<p>Mrs McCaig delivered a presentation to PC Members demonstrating the school's expectations of pupils with regards positive behaviour and demonstrating the school's values of Respect, Responsibility and Ambition. This showed the flowchart for pupils not meeting expectations and what the escalation process is from Class Teacher -&gt; Principle Teacher -&gt; Senior Leadership Team and detailed the sanctions which may be imposed.</p> <p>In December past, pupils enjoyed rewards such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inflatables</li><li>• Glow in the dark Just Dance with face-painting</li><li>• Dodgeball</li><li>• Football tournament</li><li>• Café with snacks</li><li>• Christmas movie</li><li>• Art &amp; Pottery workshops</li><li>• Library trips</li></ul> <p>Parents/Carers were notified if their child was eligible for rewards, certificates were sent home with pupils.</p> <p>Going forward into 2024, the <b>S1-S3</b> rewards days will be <b>Fri 3 June</b> and <b>S4-S6</b> on <b>Mon 24 Jun</b>.</p> <p>In consultation with pupils, suggestions for rewards trips include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alton Towers</li><li>• Go Ape</li><li>• Cinema</li><li>• Bowling</li></ul>	

# BELMONT ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting  
Wed 31 Jan 2024 at 6.30pm  
Conference/e-Learning Room



- Laser Tag
- Trampoline Park
- Top Golf

Mrs McCaig is liaising with venues and bus companies to ascertain prices, recognising there could be significant costs involved in fulfilling these trips, based on the current school roll of 1250 pupils. In Dec, 80 pupils did not meet the criteria for the Dec rewards.

Likewise, there could be timetabling issues dependent on teacher availability for all day events, for supervision purposes.

Mrs McCaig will collate prices and send consent forms home to parents to determine numbers and viability.

**Misuse of mobile phones** in schools is recognised as a constant source of distraction within schools. Larbert Academy and Royal High School in Edinburgh have introduced mobile phone policies whereby pupils place mobile phones under lock and key during classes and Belmont Academy wish to enter into a consultation process to implement a mobile phone policy also.

Pupils are reminded of the **school uniform policy** in order that pupils are coming to school with the correct mind-set to learn, with the school uniform setting expectations and standards.

Mobile phones and school uniform form part of the Rewards Scheme and pupils can receive a demerit if they breach the policies supporting these.

## 6. Pastoral Update (Ian Watson)

a) **Option Choices:** S3-S4 is now complete, S4-S5 will follow, then S5-S6 and finally S2-S3.

The subject choice making process has somewhat been aided by the Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) events, along with Careers evening events.

The ability for S2 pupils able to choose 9 subjects going into S3, then dropping 2 of those subjects as they enter into S4 has proven beneficial also, as it enables students to get a flavour of that subject.

Going forward, pupils going from S4 into S5 will benefit from some new (more diverse) subject choices which were previously unavailable; these include:

- MPA (business and IT, computer games development)
- Criminology
- Cyber security
- Health Sector
- Psychology
- Sports Sciences
- Sport & Recreation

Also, S4 pupils will have the option to study dance, aesthetics.

b) **Mock Interview Process:** 125/180 S5 pupils have signed up to take part in the mock interview process which proved popular last year. 20-30 pupils may be excluded due to health or wellbeing issues which the Guidance Team are aware of.

Some of the companies who have agreed to take part in the interview panel include: Caledonian Vehicles, Smoking Goat, Marine Hotel, Richardson & Starling, and Black Hay Solicitors/Estate Agents.

# BELMONT ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting

Wed 31 Jan 2024 at 6.30pm

Conference/e-Learning Room



On advice from an HR company, it has been suggested that the process may evolve from that of an application form to a Curriculum Vitae and the current scoring process updated also.

The final stages of the process will be Feb 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, with an update given to Parent Council Members at the next Meeting.

## 7. Head Teacher Update (Kevin Boyd)

### a) Staffing

Since the last meeting in October, the following members of staff have been appointed:

- Dawn Slider PT Pupil Support (Braehead Primary School)
- Iain Phillips PT Physical education
- Alison Harvey PT Mathematics
- Amy Donnellan PT English (Clevedon Secondary School, start date W/C 12/2)
- Louise Ferguson PT Guidance (Arran House, start date Q/C 5/2)
- Cameron Chape Teacher of Physics
- Jennifer Corcoran Teacher of English
- Chloe Jackson Teacher of PE (Garnock Academy, start date TBC)

In addition to the above teaching staff we have also been able to successfully recruit new School Assistants and clerical staff.

For my first time in post, I share that our current staffing levels are extremely challenging. Staff absence is mostly related to personal and family issues, rather than being work related. We also have three posts waiting for successful candidates to begin.

Staff absence is most acute in the English and RMPS departments. Amy Donnellan, our new PT English, will join us for two days next week and take up post the following week. Mr Duffin continues to support N5/H Media classes and will deliver online and in person sessions as well as Easter School.

Mr Marrison plans to return to the RE department on Monday, teaching alongside Miss Mack.

In addition, there is limited general cover available across the authority. This is putting additional strain on all eight Secondary Schools. I have raised this matter with the authority, providing some solutions, and hope that measures can be put in place to improve this situation.

I will issue a parental letter updating all members of the school community on the significant staff changes in recent months.

### b) Senior Phase Assessment Programme

N5 prelims were completed prior to the Christmas break and H/AH prelims finished last Friday. A huge thanks to Mr Sinclair, Mrs Slider PT Pupil Support, the Invigilation Team and other key staff for ensuring its smooth delivery. One again I would also like to thank our incredible young people, who have undertaken these assessments with the correct attitude, spirit and determination.

### c) Senior Phase Attainment

H/AH prelim data will be finalised by Mrs McCaig DHT next week. She will then collate H/AH data following the recent completion of the prelim diet. S4 tracking reports detailing prelim results have been shared with parents/carers and staff have started to complete S5/6 reports. The SLT will oversee appropriate measures, supports and actions between now and the final SQA exams, using all available resources.

# BELMONT ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting  
Wed 31 Jan 2024 at 6.30pm  
Conference/e-Learning Room



Mr McLean explained that the tracking reports submitted to the Education Authority in November were closely analysed against the prelim results. A targeted support group has been set up for approx. 50 x S4 pupils who are on the cusp of achieving their forecasted results at level 3, 4 or 5, where there will be an enhanced focus on reaching their potential in order to achieve their National 5 qualification.

Mrs McCaig (S5) and Mrs Flanagan (S6) will oversee similar supports and interventions for their respective year groups.

The school community takes great pride in our young people's high levels of attainment and achievement, and we are confident this pattern of success will continue.

## d) Supported Study Programme

We will continue to deliver a wide range of supported study (focus on SP) this session. The school website details our current provision and we will continue to update this.

McLean DHT oversees this programme and information will be shared in relation study support for Senior Phase students, including our Easter School programme.

Miss Harvey (PT Maths) is planning a Maths weekend at Dumfries House targeting S4 N5 pupils. Once arrangements are confirmed More information will be shared with relevant pupils and families.

## e) Options, Pathways & Careers Information Evening

This S2-S5 parental event took place on Thursday, 11 January and was a very successful evening with over 300 people attending. Almost tripling the attendance of last year.

### Feedback

Parent/Carer – 68% of responses rated it 3 stars and 32% rated it 2 stars

Young People – 100% of responses rated it 3 stars

Partners – 50% of responses rated it 3 stars and 50% rated it 2 stars

Belmont Staff – 90% of responses rated it 3 stars and 10% rated it 2 stars

A QR code was used to gather feedback/suggestions and this information will be used to inform future events. We have already reviewed this event and Miss MacMillan (DYW Coordinator) has a clear plan to further improve our activity in this area.

### **Key Dates**

Date	Event
Thursday, 1 February	S6 Burns Supper
Tuesday, 6 February 2024	S4 Parents' Evening, 5pm – 7pm
Wednesday, 21 February	S5/6 Tracking Report issued
Monday, 26 February 2024	S5/6 Parents' Evening, 5pm – 7pm
Tuesday, 5 March 2024	S2 Parents' Evening, 5pm – 7pm
Tuesday, 19 March 2024	Young Musician & Singer of the Year competition, 7pm

# BELMONT ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting

Wed 31 Jan 2024 at 6.30pm

Conference/e-Learning Room



8.	<b>Belmont Funding Futures (BFF) Update (Emma Brown)</b>
<p>The <b>Christmas Raffle</b> brought in £1034 for the BFF fund. £650 had been spent on the cost of the inflatables for the December rewards day(s).</p> <p>The idea of a <b>Summer Raffle</b> was mooted, as well as “An Evening with...(Sportsperson / Arts)” where tickets could be sold for entry to the event and ‘lucky tickets’ sold on arrival too.</p> <p>Other suggestions included ‘<b>Gladiators-style</b>’ event, <b>bag-packing, art exhibition</b> (Artist Vanessa Lawrence has already offered support for such an event.</p> <p>Agreed to add fundraising to the next agenda, to allow more time for discussion. Meantime, members were asked to give some thought to fund-raising possibilities and ideas on how they may be able to support such events.</p> <p>It was agreed that a card-reader must be progressed, with the majority of people not carrying cash and opting to pay via contactless options. <b>ACTION: David Bulloch</b></p> <p><b>Belmont Funding Futures</b> has been <b>registered as a charity</b> and a Certificate of Registration has been received from South Ayrshire Council.</p>	
9.	<b>Any Other Business</b>
<p>a) Volunteers were sought to support S2 Parents Evening on Tue 6 March to serve tea/coffee. Names to Susan Bell, if able to offer assistance.</p> <p>b) Rape Crisis Event for S6 – following an event which had taken place in school in December for the S6 girls, it was queried why this event was not inclusive for the boys.</p> <p>Mr Watson explained that the agency who delivered the session had been clear that the content was targeted at the girls (only). For future sessions, the school will ask if the sessions can include content suitable for both boys and girls.</p> <p>It was noted that Thriving Communities are able to provide talks on domestic abuse, coercive behaviour as well as ‘making the right choices’. The content of these are suitable for both.</p>	
10.	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>
<p>The next meeting of the Parent Council will take place on <b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February</b> at <b>6.30pm</b> in the <b>Conference/e-Learning Room</b> within Belmont Academy.</p>	