

BELMONT ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

APPROVED Minute of Meeting
Wed 28 May 2025 at 6.30pm
School Library



PRESENT:

Parent Members: Aynsley Lawrence, David Bulloch (Treasurer), Emma Brown (Vice Chair), Heather Knox, Josephine Docherty (Secretary), Karen Donn, Kate Ludkin, Lesley Strain, Lorna Russell, Lucinda Ferguson-Hunter, Lyssa McCartney & Susan Bell (Chairperson)

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

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chair, Susan Bell welcomed attendees and noted apologies from David Codling, Jonathan Hagen, Karen McGimpsey, and Vicky Pang. She expressed heartfelt thanks to parent members whose children were leaving Belmont Academy at the end of term, acknowledging their valued support over the past six years.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting (26 April 2025)

The minutes from the meeting held on 26 April 2025 were approved by Lynsey Pollock and seconded by Lesley Strain.

3. Matters Arising

- a. **Pupil Survey:** S1 pupils completed the "Better Breaktimes, Better Transitions" questionnaire. They voted on ideas to improve spaces, experiences, and resources. Suggestions included opening astro pitches at lunchtime and adding seating at the front of the school. Pupils described the outdoor space positively but felt it could be more interactive. Mr Boyd agreed to incorporate these ideas into the school improvement plan.
- b. **Gambling Licence:** No response had been received from South Ayrshire Council. David Bulloch agreed to follow up. **ACTION: D. Bulloch**
- c. **Bank Account Change:** The transition to Virgin Bank was underway. Susan Bell and Josephine Docherty were named as Trustees, as David Bulloch planned to step down at the end of term.
- d. **Pop-up Shop (Maybole):** Total takings were £1,715 from shop and eBay sales. Plans were in place for another shop in late October/early November, pending availability. **ACTION: S. Bell**
- e. **Kilt Walk (Glasgow):** Teaching staff raised approximately £1,500–£1,600.
- f. **Calendar of Events 2025/26:** Circulated via email with a request for parent volunteers. Item to be carried forward. **ACTION: E. Brown**
- g. **End of Term Dinner:** A booking was made at The Fox & Willow for 13 people on Monday 16 June at 6:30pm.

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h. P7 Information Evening (12 June):

Susan Bell agreed to attend to promote the Parent Council and recruit new members.

ACTION: S. Bell

4. Belmont Funding Futures Update (Emma Brown)

Covered under 'Matters Arising'.

5. Treasurer's Report (David Bulloch)

Bank Balance:

Item	Amount
Opening Balance	£1810.54
Income (Pop-up Shop & Parents Evenings)	£1549.10
Outgoings (Bank Charges)	-£4.25
Closing Balance	£3355.39

Parent Council Members agreed to donate £275 to the school prize-giving event.

ACTION: D Bulloch

David Bulloch agreed to have the financial accounts audited prior to his handover to new Treasurer, in Sep 2025 for the AGM.

ACTION: D Bulloch

6. Pastoral Update (Ian Watson)

- a. **P7 Transition Days:** Approximately 200 pupils were expected across 10th & 11th June. Seven classes will be formed based on various criteria including care experience, sibling allocation, and parental requests.

Transition Programme Includes:

- S1 Christmas Disco
- Guidance Visits
- Enhanced Meetings
- Literacy Lead Visits (Mrs Peacock and Miss Pollock)
- Transition event (Mr Wilde)

- b. **S2 Safety Day on Thu 22 May** – There were presentations from Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Community Safety, British Transport Police, HM Coastguard, Smoking Cessation, where Pupils rotated through safety presentations from the different agencies. Next year's event will be scheduled before Easter holidays.

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7. Head Teacher's Update (Kevin Boyd)

a) Welcome

Mr Boyd thanked the Parent Council for their support and challenge throughout the school session. He expressed satisfaction with the improvements made over the year and looked forward to continuing collaborative work with the Parent Council.

b) Staffing

Current staffing levels at the school are very good. Two members of staff remain on long-term absence. One promoted post is about to be advertised:

- PT Biology (Laura Kirkwood)

An additional 2.2 FTE staffing allocation has been received, and Mrs Flanagan and the Head Teacher are finalising plans to support curriculum areas that are under pressure following pupil option choices. Additionally, the school successfully bid for NQTs in the following subjects:

- Mathematics (Claire Irvine)
- History (Constance Mills)
- PE (Andrew McAllister)

Based on previous experience, the Head Teacher anticipates further staffing changes prior to August.

c) School Improvement Visit

Lyndsay McRoberts (Director of Education), Gavin Pitt (QIM), and several other colleagues visited the school on Friday, 2 May for an improvement visit. The meeting was extremely positive, and the Head Teacher extended personal thanks to staff and young people for their contributions. Discussions focused on self-evaluation, celebrating success in attainment and achievement, and setting priorities for the next session. Although the visit coincided with the BGE Sports Day, the guests were unable to attend the Riverside arena due to diary commitments. The visiting team provided excellent feedback, and Lyndsay McRoberts stated she would love to work with the senior team.

d) SQA Examinations

Mr Boyd reported that the SQA examination diet ran smoothly and concluded earlier that day. Attendance was excellent, and pupil conduct was exemplary. Mr Boyd wished all candidates success on results day, Tuesday, 5 August 2025. Special thanks were extended to Mrs McCaig (SQA Co-ordinator), Mrs Slider (AAA), Mr Dunlop (Chief Invigilator), and the wider team. Mr Dunlop received a special mention as he stepped down after 10 years of service as Chief Invigilator. Best wishes were offered to Mrs Gillian Cunningham, who will take over the role next session.

e) New Timetable

Thanks were extended to Mrs Flanagan for successfully completing the new school timetable. New S2/3/4 pupils began their timetable on Monday, 19 May. With the exam diet concluding, S6 and S5 Induction Days are taking place this week ahead of the new timetable launch on Monday, 2 June.

f) S6 Leavers' Celebration

The school is preparing to welcome outgoing S6 students and their families to the annual S6 Leavers' Celebration. Up to 200 attendees are expected tomorrow evening.

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g) S6 Prom

The S6 Prom is scheduled to take place at Brig O'Doon on Tuesday, 3 June.

h) Rewards Day

Mrs McCaig is finalising arrangements for the new S5/6 Rewards Day, which will be held on Friday, 20 June. Information has been shared via Teams and with parents/carers.

i) Awards Ceremonies

Mr McLean and key staff are making good progress in preparing for the school's Awards Ceremonies.

- BGE & SP Prize-Giving: Tuesday, 24 June
- Celebration of Success House Assemblies: Wednesday, 25 June
- Sports Awards Ceremony: Evening of Wednesday, 25 June

j) Personal Support

Starting Monday, 25 August, the school will introduce a refreshed approach to delivering Personal Support. Each morning from 8:45 to 8:55am, pupils will have opportunities to:

- Socialise with friends
- Enjoy a free breakfast
- Check in with their House Team
- Attend Assemblies
- Collect uniform or stationery if needed

The school recognises that a healthy breakfast improves focus and learning. Currently offering toast, they are seeking to partner with an external provider to expand morning options to include bagels and other bakery items.

To further support pupils, several stalls will be available in the atrium each morning, where pupils can:

- Chat with their Buddies
- Pick up necessary equipment
- Book appointments with their Guidance Teacher or School Counsellor

The Senior Leadership Team, House Teams, and School Captaincy Team will be present each morning to offer guidance and support, helping every pupil feel prepared and confident for the day ahead.

8. Any Other Business

- a) Parent Pay – there was a query as to how S6 pupils may be refunded any funds remaining in their Parent Pay account. Mr Watson advised that S6 pupils could withdraw remaining funds via the app or contact the School Office for assistance.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next Parent Council meeting, including the AGM, is scheduled for **Wednesday 24 September 2025 at 6:30pm** in the School Library.