

**St Kentigern’s Academy
Minute of Parent Council**

Date: 12 th January 2017	Present: A Sharkey, P Lally, J Kelly, K McKeown, D Coulter, K Binnie & S Young
	Apologies: P Meehan, M Reynolds & AM Diamond

Apologies and in Attendance	P Lally welcomed members to the meeting.	
Minutes of Previous Meeting.	<p>Matters Arising: Named Person Report: AS: Further update has still to be received from Scottish Govt; the school continue to receive Police Reports.</p> <p>Student Support Mechanisms: AS: Members will be invited to spend time in the school to observe.</p> <p>DHT Interview: AS will cover Staffing in HT Report as a separate agenda item.</p> <p>Proposed: D Coulter Seconded: K McKeown</p>	AS to arrange a date and invite members.
Correspondence.	AS: E-mails have previously been issued to Parent Council Members.	
Meetings Attended.	No meetings had been attended since the last Parent Council.	
Head Teachers Report.	AS: Provided a full report (attached to this minute) on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of Results from 2016 Exam Diet. • National Improvement Framework (NIF) which will allow parents and colleagues to view 	

	<p>achievement of level information for all schools in Scotland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Attainment Challenge – Additional Government Funding to allow us to develop new initiatives and strategies. • SLT Structure • School Trips • Staffing Update • Student Successes • Culture and Ethos <p>It was agreed that the HT Report will be emailed to members in advance of the Meeting.</p>	<p>AS to arrange.</p> <p>AS to put Report onto school website.</p>
Staffing / Recruitment.	AS: Discussed as part of HT Report.	
Transport.	<p>AS: Due to the current roadworks at West Calder, students affected by this are arriving in school earlier. The canteen is open for breakfast and hot drinks.</p> <p>There are still occasional issues with student behaviour on buses. SLT continue to work with the Bus Companies on this.</p>	
Curriculum for Excellence.	<p>AS: Described how a students' experience is within both a primary and secondary school.</p> <p>PL: Has received positive feedback on Study Support sessions.</p>	
Church Rep	As the Church Rep wasn't present no report received	
AOCB	No points raised.	
Future Meeting Dates:	<p>AS: 23rd Feb 2017</p> <p>30th Mar 2017</p> <p>1st Jun 2017</p>	



St Kentigern's Academy
Parent Council
Thursday 12th January 2017
Head Teacher's Report

The information in this report is in addition to the information contained in the School Christmas Newsletter.

Learning and Teaching

As there hasn't been a meeting since May below is a quick update on student performance in the 2016 SQA exam diet. The breakdown of results is:

S4

5+ Level 5	39%	(up from 30%)
5+ Level 4	89%	(up from 86%)
5+ Level 3	95%	(up from 94%)

Level 6 in S5

5+ Level 6	10%	(down from 11%)
3+ Level 6	24%	(down from 30%)
1+ Level 6	51%	(same as 2015)

Advanced Higher in S6

1+ Level 7	19%	(up from 17%)
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Cumulative S6 Results

1+ Level 7	18%	(down from 19%)
5 + @ Level 6	25%	(down from 26%)
3 + @ Level 6	38%	(up from 35%)
1 + @ Level 6	53%	(down from 54%)

The strategy the school adopted in dual presenting students at National 5 / National 4 again proved very successful with large numbers of students benefiting from this approach. In all categories apart from 3+ (2% less) and 5+ (1% less) Level 6 in S5 we achieved better than our 3 year and 5 year averages. This diet had seen the implementation of the new national qualifications at Adv. Higher level and we continued to achieve well at this level. Students in S4/S5 and S6 continued to achieve on or above National performance in nearly all SIMD Decile groups.

The number of student's staying on at school in S5 till the end of S5 last year was 76% whilst the S6 figure had dropped to 55% at this same time. The school continues to work on addressing this, but over 90% of our leavers move onto a positive destination on the census date.

The number of student's staying on at school in S5 this year (September figures) has increased to 94% (up from 89% in 2015) whilst the staying on rate in S6 is now 52% (down from 60% in 2015).

Enhancements to the Tracking and Monitoring system in the school means that monthly progress reports are issued to all students in S4, S5 and S6. This has been well received and is allowing us to target students with support much earlier than previously. There is also an internal

Broad general Education Tracking system for students in S1, S2 and S3. This will be completed 4 times a year but is currently only being used in school. In future we hope to share this data with parents in the same way as we do with the Senior Phase reports.

The government now publishes achievement of level information for all schools in Scotland. This information is very important as it links to the National Improvement Framework (NIF) and shows how many students have achieved the appropriate levels in 4 key areas, Reading, Writing, Talking & Listening and Numeracy, for every school. This data is available at <http://tabsoft.co/2jyxuHT> and will be joined in the future with additional information from the National Standardised Assessments in P1, P4, P7 and S3.

Vision and Leadership

St Kentigern's Academy has been included in the Scottish Attainment Challenge. This means that we had to submit a full plan on new initiatives and approaches we would take to help raise the attainment of students living in the bottom 20% of Scottish Households as identified by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivations. Our bid was deemed an example of good practice and we received an additional £105,000 in funding for the period between October and March. We should also be receiving additional funding for the next year. This money is being used to employ additional staff and run programmes to increase student / parent engagement, tackle health and wellbeing issues and provide additional literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing support. Money is also being used for a number of targeted staff development programmes. Our progress with this is being monitored monthly by the HMIe and West Lothian council and we are already seeing some interesting results.

Over the past two years the school had been developing the ways our Student Support staff provide support to all our students under the 'Universal Support' model. The final stage was to introduce a House Structure. This has now been fully implemented and we will be carrying out a full evaluation of it prior to the summer.

As mentioned later in the report, Mr Quinn has been appointed the post of Acting DHT, with Mr Kerr and Mrs Winton both taking on the new post, Senior Leadership Development. In this role they fulfil a similar role as a DHT and as such have a number of whole school responsibilities in addition to many of the roles they previously fulfilled. By having this role we will now have a Senior Leadership Team made up of 1 HT, 2 DHTs, 2 SLD and our Business Manager. At the next level the school Extended Leadership team is made up of all the Senior Leadership team as well as 9 Principal Teacher Curriculum (6 for subject areas and 3 for Student Support).

The 6 month review of the School Improvement Plan is currently taking place. Students and staff will have opportunities to be involved in the review and the next stage is to gather the views of other stakeholders. To involve parents in this we will issue a questionnaire review via Group Call to our school community to capture views on the schools progress, successes and areas that need developed.

Partnership

Headteacher drop-in sessions continue to take place every Wednesday from 5.30pm till 6.30pm. These allow parents / carers to speak directly with me for any sort of 'enquiry' and attendance has continued to be good.

A group of 18 students and 3 staff spent two weeks in June working with the Vine Trust in supporting street children in Peru. The trip was to be a joint trip with Armadale Academy but there was only 1 teacher and 1 student attended from there. Our students and staff had been

fundraising hard as well as learning Spanish and developing a number of skills prior to the trip. The visit was a great success and the students a credit to the school. We now intend to run another trip with the vine Trust in June 2018.

Building on our successful partnership with the Institution Robin Saint-Vincent-de-Paul in Lyon, France, we were visited by 5 of their staff as part of a fact finding 'mission'. This was a great success and we hope to do a similar reciprocal visit to them next year. In addition, twenty of our Senior Students and two staff will be visiting Institution Robin Saint-Vincent-de-Paul in February. During their visit they will be visiting classes, taking part in student focus groups and further developing our relationship prior to a number of French students joining us in June for a week.

People

There have been a number of staffing changes in the school. We have gained Mrs. McKeon (Business Ed), Ms. Watson (Computing), Ms. Conway (English), Ms. McGuigan (English), Ms. Southern (PTC English), Mr. Williams (Health and Food Technology), Mr. Burrows (Learning Support), Mr. Gallagher (Maths), Mrs. Kabur (Maths), Mr. Rajcoomar (Science), Mrs. Gill (PTC Social Subjects), Ms. McGachy (Social Subjects), Mr. Hayes (Social Subjects), Mr McLean (Attainment Challenge), Mrs Urquhart (Attainment Challenge), Mrs Ingram (Attainment Challenge), Ms Allan (Office), and Mr Kane (Maths).

We have said goodbye to Mrs McDade (Acting DHT) who left to join the staff at Cardinal Newman High School. We have also lost Suzanne McGurl (Maths), Lawrie Baxter (SFL), Hilary Campbell (HFT), Melanie Clarke (Music) Stewart Day (English), Kathleen McHugh (English), Emma McLean (RE), Sharon Conlon (Bus. Ed.) and Katrina Heenan (Chemistry).

Mrs Flannigan (Computing), Mrs Warner, and Mrs Oliver (Social Subjects) are all currently on maternity leave.

Our staffing has become a bit settled presently but there are still a number of vacancies we hope to fill in the near future. These currently include a Chemistry Teacher, Physics Teacher, and in the slightly longer term, DHT (Curriculum) and PTC Social Subjects. Mr Kerr (PTC Drama, Music and PE) and Mrs Winton (PTC Art, CDT, & HFT) have been promoted to the Senior Leadership Development Post within the school on a job share basis.

We continue to have great student successes and a few recent examples are:

- Senior Football Team has made the last 16 in the Scottish Cup.
- Our S2 nurture class all completed their first aid qualifications.
- Erin Campbell in S2 won the prestigious Linlithgow Rotary Young Writer's Competition. The third time in a row a student from St Kent's has won it.
- A number of our students had great success in the UK Maths Challenge. In S5: Raiden Anderson, Abigail Gornall, Hope Greenshields, Conal Rodgers, Michael Olori and Anna Kelly, and in S6, Beth McDermid, Jack Wilson and Sam Craig.
- The school achieved a Business Excellence Award from the West Lothian Chamber of Commerce
- Jonny Moffat in S4 who has gained a place on Falkirk FC's elite programme and Luisa Greenhorn in S1 who has been invited to join the Acro Elite Squad at the Dynamic Gymnastics Academy.
- Joseph Brownlie in S3 has been selected to be part of the Youth Development Squad for Scotland for both pool and open water swimming.

Culture and Ethos

The annual Burn's Supper takes place on the 20th January. Our S6 students have been working hard on their speeches and poems and the evening is looking like it will be a massive success.

A number of trips have taken place since the last meeting. In addition to the Peru trip we have had two trips to London, and a trip to Stratford upon Avon. We also had more local trips to the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, Kelvingrove Museum in Glasgow, three theatre trips, the panto, Stirling and Bannockburn, Universities of Glasgow, Edinburgh and Stirling, Livingston for the Cinema and the Time Capsule in Coatbridge. These are in addition to the ongoing outdoor education trips, etc. that we run.

The Time Capsule trip was a reward trip run by the Maths department for every student in S1 that had achieved all their Mathematics targets and given their best in class and almost 160 students in S1 qualified to attend the trip.

Future trips are being arranged to London for Dance and Theatre, France for a S1 /S2 Language Experience and an S1 / S2 / S3 Residential Outdoor Experience (Attainment Challenge)

Assemblies continue to be delivered around the theme of the school values and Pop up Displays showing the school values and posters, designed by the students, have been produced and are being displayed around the school. This work has all come from the students and is part of our wider work on developing positive relationships.

The students and staff of St Kentigern's Academy collected an amazing 194.7kg of food for this year's West Lothian Foodbank appeal. This equates to approx. 464 meals for people in crisis in our local area.

Four significant recent visitors to the school to work with the students have been the Geobus (Stirling University Geography outreach), Karen Bennet (Olympic Silver Medallist), the Russian State Ballet, and Bioinformatics (University of Edinburgh Biology & IT outreach).

A large number of student led fund raising activities have taken place over the last few months with a significant amount being raised for a number of charities. The school is fundraising this term for Social Bite, SVDP, Mary's Meals, Marie Curie, West Lothian Food Bank, the Vine Trust, save the Children and Cancer Research UK

Sporting Progress – We are currently fifth in the West Lothian Sports League. Our football, dance and rugby teams continue to do well at all age levels and our swim team, made up of Sasha Borisenko, Sinead Boyle, Joseph Brownlie, Jessica Grimley, Nathan Grimley, Eilidh MacNeill, Stuart MacNeill, Kara Moffat, Cara Mowbray, Conan Mowbray, Jack Mowbray, Elise Petrie, Jessica Service, Chanel Sneddon, Matthew Spence and Rachel Spence won the West Lothian Schools Swimming Competition with Chanel also winning top female. This team will now go forward to compete in the Scottish Championship.

Future Dates

S4/5/6 Prelims	Wed 4 th - Fri 20 th January
Burns Supper	Fri 20 th January
S5/6 Parent's Evening	Thurs 2 nd February
HPV Immunisations	Mon 7 th February
February Holiday	Fri 10 th February
Students Resume	Wed 15 th February
Student Voice Week	Mon 20 th -Fri 24 th February
S2 Parents' Evening	Thurs 2 nd March
S4 Full Report	Mon 6 th March
HPV Teenage Booster	Tues 7 th March
S4/5 Options	Mon 20 th March
S3 Full Report	Mon 27 th March
Last Day of Term	Fri 31 st March
All Resume	18 th April