



# Berwickshire High School Parent Council

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting 08 September 2023 (including AGM)

## AGM

### Confirmed Office Bearers

- Chair - Neil Bennett
- Vice Chair – Vacant
- Treasurer – Mo Lamond
- Secretary – Vacant
- Fundraising – Vacant

## Parent Council Meeting

### Present

Parents: Lisa Armstrong, Neil Bennett, Wanda-Jane Field, Marianne Hodge, Mo Lamond, Amanda Stewart, Claire Stewart, Victoria Tait, Sophie ?

Staff: Emma Dixon, Bruce Robertson

Local Councillor: John Greenwell

### Apologies

Hazel Brydon, Katrina Reynolds

### 1. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting in June were approved.

### 2. Chairperson's Report

Neil updated the Parent Council on the following matters:

Mental Health provision:

- Planned MYPAS (Mental Health Wellbeing Counselling Service) restricted to Gala cluster schools only.
- Discussion around parent interest that funding be made available for floating counselling
- Group of Chairs from Borders Schools continuing to pursue clarity on plan for 2024, and progress on a Borders wide solution.

PC Parent Recruitment:

Leaflet distribution to advertise PC agreed for Senior Awards ceremony. Further discussion postponed for next meeting. Discussion around fundraising being a gateway for parents to get involved. Agreement that the purpose of the parent council is to come up with ideas to support school to improve, lead specific projects (i.e. push for dyslexia schools award), promote fundraising at a time when budgets are increasingly stretched

Dyslexia Support in School:

Staff & PC sub-committee pursuing the British Dyslexia School of Excellence Award. Kathy Huffman & Victoria Tait in process of consulting with schools in Cumbria. Need to evidence Standard of Excellence. Ambition to take cluster wide – starting with Primary Schools

Christmas Fair:

Victoria Tait confirmed Date - 16 November. Meeting arranged with Jane Taylor (past organiser)

- 10 confirmed small stall holders currently, choir, music – Santa to be decided.
- Agreement on raffle prizes / save the date
- Agreed to run competition for pupils to design a poster before October holidays - £30 amazon voucher as top prize

- Refreshments discussed as a possible Fundraising option including home baking, mince pies, coffees. S3 participation.

Borders Women's Aid:

(Neil made a declaration of interest: family member on Board). BWA is a refuge for women who have experienced domestic abuse. Discussion around 'Escape the Trap' – for 13-25 year olds – opportunity for young people to explore emotional impact of relationships and consider what kind of parents they would like / what kind of partner they would like to be. Open to everyone.

### **3. Treasurer's Report 2021-2022**

Main account balance: £2,870

200 club balance: £956.50

### **4. Fundraising and 200 Club draw**

200 Club draw Sept 2023

1<sup>st</sup> – number 27, 2<sup>nd</sup> Number 12, 3<sup>rd</sup> number 63

Fundraising: Discussion around Printing for 200 Club / teddies

### **5. Rector's Report**

Presentation on Berwickshire High School's exam results 2023. Attainment at present:

S4 - 4 – 5 or more Nat 5s at A or B, or 4As.

S5 - 4 Highers A-C or 3As

Update on BHS staffing

Recognition of challenging staffing situation

Positive news that teachers are expressing desire to come to Berwickshire – improving reputation.

### **6. Matters raised/AOB**

Awards ceremony

Re-introduction of awards ceremony was well received by parents and students.

Discussion around transparency of criteria so pupils/parents know how attainment & effort awards achieved.

Attainment at present: S4 - 4 – 5 or more Nat5s at A or B, or 4As. S5 - 4 Highers A-C or 3As

Effort at present – 2 or more effort nominations from teachers

Rector acknowledged that criteria could be open for review.

School blazers for Head Team

Successful continuation from 2022's reintroduction. Feedback provided on merits of standardised uniform for all. Discussion around whether it will be extended to senior year. Cost implications of this acknowledged.

University Open Days

Updated study support programme 2023/4 now live on BHS Website

Information being provided to students on September / October University open days

Support provided around application process – esp. to students who will be first to attend university in family etc

House competition system – House Captains being confirmed this week

Volunteers – Sports coaching needed – for Hockey in particular

Agreement to move PCM to 6pm on a Thursday at request of staffing team

### **7. DONM**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 6pm