



Berwickshire High School Parent Council

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting 05 October 2023

Welcome & apologies:

Present

Parents: Lisa Armstrong, Jacqui Bennett, Neil Bennett, Wanda-Jane Field, Mo Lamond, Claire Stewart, Victoria Tait, Jude Reid

Staff: Emma Dixon, Bruce Robertson Local Councillor: John Greenwell

Apologies

Katrina Reynolds, Julie Reid

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of meeting in September were approved

2. Chairperson's Report

Neil updated the Parent Council on the following matters:

- Mental Health provision:
Confirmed 1 counsellor for pilot scheme
Upcoming meeting with 3 reps from PC Chairs present
1st set of data will be shared in Feb 24.
- PC Parent Recruitment – For discussion at next meeting
- Dyslexia Support in school:
Next meeting of core group on 30 October at 7pm

3. Treasurer's Report 2021-2022

Main Account Balance - £2,653

200 club balance - £956

4. 200 Club draw

12 should not have been in draw last month.

29 drawn for 3rd place last month.

October draw – 1st – 5 (Lisa McGrath), 2nd – 1 (Jason Waghorn), 3rd – 40 (Nicola Brown)

Claire Stewart – 200 Club posters are ready for distribution. Error on cost to be corrected manually.

5. Christmas Fair Update

Poster winner: Chloe Penman (S5) - £30 prize. Special commendation: Martha Cochrane (S1)

Parent Council agreed purchase of sketching set for each entrant at £6.50 per set (£52 total)

Many thanks to Rob Harvey for all his support in organisation of Fair.

21 stalls so far – 10 paid for already

Catering will be upstairs

6. Rector's Report

The Rector gave a detailed presentation exploring the 2023 attainment picture. This included a comparison on how the school has performed against a number of local and national measures, including other secondary schools in the Scottish Borders, the 'Virtual Comparator' and the National Average.

There was an exploration of key measures, such as 5+ Level 5 qualifications in S4, 3+ Level 6 qualifications in S5 and 3+ Level 7 qualifications in S6.

Overall, the picture is positive.

The Rector also discussed the action taken to further strengthen the whole school attainment for 2024. Ways to share key messages with the whole school will be considered.

There was some discussion around current staffing levels.

6. Matters raised/AOB

Awards Ceremony – Agreement that attainment standards are clearly communicated. Effort awards will have input from Guidance teachers in future.

Ambitions Day – Held last year. Will be held again this year (date to be determined) Will cover CV skills, interview skills, SAAS applications.

Pupil Mentoring – Some discussion around cost of disclosures (£48) for potential candidates.

Outdoor announcement board – agreement to revisit at a later date.

SBC Respectful Relationships Policy has been issued to include bullying policy

2nd time of running the UCAS trip to Kelso - valuable experience for S6's

Hardship Fund:

- i. Parentpay to be amended to include an option to make a donation.
- ii. Parent Council agreed unanimously to donate £500 of funds as a start up donation to Hardship Fund.
- iii. Some discussion around other funding sources – to be explored further by Emma Dixon.

Charity Ball: cannot be held in school. Difficulty of ball needing to be staffed if held on school premises. Head Team to organise.

Border Women's Aid – Recap of what was agreed at last meeting.

7. DONM

Thursday 02 November 2023, 6pm