

**Berwickshire High School Parent Council**

**Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 6pm**

**Present:** Sally Kitchen (Chair), Ray Georgeson (Vice-Chair), Marianne Hodge (Treasurer), Sandra Dewar, Sara Steady, Jude Reid, Kirsty Binnie, Kayden Binnie

**In attendance:** Judith Weston (Rector)

**Item 1 - Apologies:** Victoria Tait (Secretary)

**Item 2 - Notes and actions from minutes of last meeting:**

Notes:

Neil Bennett's remarks with regard to the Chair's email address were noted.

Creation of BHS email addresses for PC officers is now in hand.

Neil will shut down the old email system, a vote of thanks was offered to Neil for his past efforts in managing the email system.

Actions:

History books and maps are being updated.

Toilets – upper floor access is being reduced, more staff supervision and monitoring of vaping increased.

Website – lots of new photos are being added to update the site.

My Path (the new counselling service) -worker is now active in the building, referrals are being accepted.

Minutes were approved as noted.

**Item 3 – Chair's Report**

Sally provided a verbal report, including an update that the advert for the Head post was now live and interviews scheduled. Remembrance Service was attended and was an excellent event, a credit to the School.

**Item 4 – Treasurer's Report**

Report was tabled at the meeting by Marianne. £299.20 in the 200 Club account and £2016.66 in the main account, with an additional £251.96 held in cash. Full details in the tabled paper. 7 new members have joined the 200 Club.

**Item 5 – 200 Club Draw**

November 1<sup>st</sup> – 35 (Hazel Brydon); 2<sup>nd</sup> – 24 (Vivien Archbald); 3<sup>rd</sup> – 27 (Clare Simpson)

December 1<sup>st</sup> – 24 (Vivien Archbald); 2<sup>nd</sup> – 52 (Jim Heron); 3<sup>rd</sup> – 40 (Nicola Brown)

**Item 6 – Rector's Report**

Judith's report is tabled below:

- **School Improvement Priorities:**
  - Literacy and Numeracy – J Bewsey is meeting with the PTs of Maths and English to discuss communication and consistency of tracking in BGE
  - Numeracy – Work begun on strengthening pathways and numeracy across the cluster. Magma Maths has been introduced
  - SSE Reviews on Computing, Languages and Physics have been (or are being) completed
  - Extended Leadership Team have started to raise awareness of the curriculum review cycle and to consider how we embed Problem Based Learning
- **Attainment & Achievement:**
  - New tracking sheet to give Senior Phase data is being trialed
  - Currently identifying interventions which are needed
  - Prelim timetable is being prepared to send
- **Staffing:**
  - New appointments:
    - Mr Darren George joining Biology dept
    - Sanchia Hunt – Towles – Biology teacher – covering until then
    - Marina McMillan is now full time Science technician – cover for ICT being sought
    - Adverts out for:
      - HT – longer cover
      - PT Pupil Support – Victoria Murray has decided to return to her family in Ireland
      - Pupil Equity Fund PSA to support reading interventions in S1-3
- **Professional Development:**
  - All staff meetings are now planned around our learning and teaching improvement plan

DATE	MEETING	FOCUS	STAFF LEADING
10 <sup>TH</sup> November	CPD	Behaviour (including iPad behaviour)	D Huffman/K Hill (TBC)
5 <sup>th</sup> January	Staff Meeting	Questioning	D Huffman
26 <sup>th</sup> January	Staff Meeting	Neurodiversity/Dyslexia	K Huffman
16 <sup>th</sup> March	Staff Meeting	Differentiated Challenge & Support	D Huffman

- Pupil Voice:

- I am keen to explore development of student leadership. This will be on the pupil support PT remit going forward
- Wellbeing & Inclusion:
  - MyPas worker – Laura Keay has begun working with targeted students
- Community Engagement:
  - Esports
  - Remembrance
  - Advertising Trip
  - R-evolve
- Health & Safety:
  - SBC have new rules on parent and other volunteers who must be in receipt of an SBC PVG if working a lot with young people. We are compliant with this revised guidance.
  - End of day pick up – concerns over disabled spaces and blocking of pupil transport. Thoughts? Cone the spaces. And communication.

#### **Items 7 and 8 – Fundraising and Future Funding Plan**

Discussion about the need for more fundraising ideas needed. We will ask Departments to provide a full list of the year's expected requests, so we can plan and prioritise accordingly. MH and JW agreed to develop a new bid process and would bring a future funding plan to the next meeting.

**Item 9 – Dyslexia Quality Mark.** There was no update.

#### **Item 10 – Issues raised by parents.**

There was a discussion about forthcoming study leave for Prelims and guidance was provided by the Rector.

**Item 11 – Parent reps for year groups.** Sally will follow up with a couple of potentially interested parties.

**Item 12 – Christmas Fayre** – practical discussion took place about who was doing what, final preparations were in place.

#### **Item 13 – AOB**

RG reported on discussion he had with Greener Duns. They would like to get the school more involved in environmental projects and it was agreed to invite them to a future meeting for a chat.

**Item 14 – Next meeting** was agreed to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026 at 6pm.

ENDS

Minute taker was RG.