

Berwickshire High School



Berwickshire High School Parent council

Minutes from meeting:

20th May 2026.

Attendees:

Judith Weston, Marianne Hodge, Sally Kitchen, Sara Steady, Jo Mabon, Susan Benson, Kirsty Binne, Sandra Dewar and John Greenwood (local councillor)

Apologies:

Jude Reid, Ray Georgeson, Claire Stewart.

Minutes from last meeting:

Agreed by all

Chair Report:

Sally presented Judith with flowers and a cake on behalf of the PC. Judith will rejoin Earlston High school next week after her year maternity cover at the Berwickshire High school.

The Enhanced provision pupils recently completed their Duke of Edinburgh Awards trip to Lindisfarne, with the added adventure of the broken-down bus! Woody's Taxis saved the day and delivered them all safely back to the BHS where they also camped overnight. Parents were delighted with the photographs and updates during the trip and thanked the staff for the hard work and effort. Well done to all the pupils who participated.

Treasurers report:

MH shared that £370 had been shared with Mr Bain for the school library.

The recent Tweed start trip have received funds for transport.

3 pupils in the Enhanced provision unit had been funded for their continued swimming fees.

200 Club:

Winners: 1st No 49 Nikki Renton

2nd No 11 Morag Rodgers

3rd No 6 Kenneth Martin

Winners will be shared in the June School Heads Up.

Rectors Report:

Staffing

Permanent Appointments:

DHT – Mr Murray and Mrs Kennedy

Physics – Mrs Woodhouse

PT Maths – Mrs Coyle

PT STEM Mrs Dalton

CDT – no advert response Richard CDT technician is re-registering to teach N5 and S3

Advert out

PT Pastoral x2 – decent response so far

Maths teacher for additionality

Enhanced Provision – R Smith retiring and A Doig moving to full time. Two teachers.

R Shields moving to HE two days a week with T Lawson doing 3.

Timetable

Headlines:

Growth in Sciences – Engineering and Prac Electronics

Good numbers in Maths and English – particularly with expanded offering

5 for Baccalaureate

Apps of Maths in Senior School growing – 25 for Higher and 16 for N5

Maths Higher 2 classes

Journalism 12

Pers Finance

19 for Barista

17 for Admin Higher

School Improvement Planning

Likely Areas for Development

- Learning Logs (communicating progress in learning)
- Maintaining high standards and consistency in learning and teaching
- Student Leadership Opportunities

P7 transition evening:

Will take place on Wednesday 10th June @ 6pm. PC will meet new parents and promote the 200 Club, explain the role of the Parent Reps and the benefits of joining the PC. The free 2nd hand uniform rail will be available.

PC would like to reintroduce the school tours, unsure when or why they stopped being part of the P7 transition evenings, but all PC felt they were a great opportunity for new parents and pupils to see around the school and get a feel for the layout of the building. Request to ask Eve, Olivier and Logan this years S6 pupils to support this on the 10th.

JW has confirmed with Mrs Kennedy that there will be a tour on the evening.

Parent year group reps:

Reps going into the new term are:

S1 Marianne Hodge

S2 Sandra Dewar

S3 Kirsty Binnie

S4 Jude Reid

S5 Jo Mabon

S6 Claire Stewart

Fundraising:

Handbags & Glad rags “Berwickshire Preloved” event (title to be confirmed)

1st of October is confirmed

It was agreed that a Thursday evening from 6-6:30pm would hopefully allow some school staff to attend. Event could include a cake and candy stall and raffle; PC will provide the refreshments. S6 Retail group could possibly help with this event. E Brotherstone and K Hill – Business Teachers are delighted to be involved with the retail class

Request for items to be added to the Heads up when date is confirmed and a drop off/storage point in the school to be arranged. JW has liaised with the office. Mr Murray will be the point of contact for a location for drop off. Kelly Brown in the office is aware of the event.

Fundraising requests:

Breakfast Cub: Lesley has acquired a large fridge/freezer and lots of local support has been agreed. The full £2000 funding for the 3 years has not arrived yet but has been confirmed from the PACT windfarm.

Miss Bellinger has made a request for the high school Girls rugby team kit/strips, they currently share with the boys' teams. It was agreed that the Girls in Sports Netball funds could potentially cover this request. More details and amount required for next PC meeting.

Miss Grant had requested some funds to offer some girls a trip to Tweed starts.

PC urged school staff that any funding requests are made in a timely manner, this will allow the PC to discuss the request as a group and issue funds in advance of trip taking place.

A.O.B:

Armed Forces: Councillor John Greenwood shared information from Scott Watson the Armed forces liaison officer about the "Month of the Military Child" a charity competition aimed at the 400 Scottish Borders pupils and the 20 Berwickshire pupils who have parents in the armed forces. He would like the school to encourage more entries this year. The event runs from Summer 2026 and culminates in the month of the military in April 2027. JW will share with the school staff.

School Leavers: John also requested information to share with the local community about the support ex pupils receive after leaving the school setting. JW explained that all pupils will have their school records stored for a minimum of 5 years, archived online. Any pupil who struggles after leaving in S4 can return to the school and there is a system in place with Skills Development Scotland to ensure that sustained positive destinations are achieved for all.

Work Experience: More support and better communication with parents of S3 pupils prior to the dates of their work experience. Parents feel that the S3 pupils are confused and not sharing important information with their parents prior to the WE and this is leaving less time and stress about WE. JW will share this information and discuss with Mr Gracey.

Date of next meeting:

17th June @ 6pm