

# BEARSDEN ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL



Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7.00 pm  
On Teams

## Attendees

George Cooper  
January Morgan White  
Peter Liddle  
Stuart Dickson  
Leanne Welsh  
Rachel Huston  
Katherine Sneedden

### 1. Welcome & Apologies

There were no apologies received.

### 2. Introduction from the chair

January welcomed everybody to the meeting. She introduced Leanne Welsh who is running the pupil improvement team.

### 3. The Pupil Improvement Team

Leanne described the improvement program. Ruth Higgins and others have played a part thinking of key areas of improvement including:

- Learning and Teaching Improvement Team
- Outdoor Learning Improvement Team
- Digital Learning Improvement Team
- DWY/ Meta - Skills Improvement Team
- STEM Improvement Team
- Wider Achievement Improvement Team

The aim is to ensure relevance in the curriculum and they have built up knowledge through meeting staff and other pupils including representing at assembly.

The next steps, now the action plans are in place, is to host a business breakfast meeting. We wish to make it sustainable so that it is a cycle which continues through the year to drive improvement

### 4. Minutes of the last meeting

January approved and Rachel seconded them.

# BEARSDEN ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL



## 5. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

## 6. Head Teacher update

Readiness hub – we need a separate meeting discussing this to make sure we are all happy about arrangements to get pupils into school in the morning.

Mr Cooper said that we continue to try to find ways to make it easier for parents to engage with the school. 95% of parents attend the parents' evening for example, so the willingness to engage and we have had very positive comments.

The SQA timetable changed and has been changed in response to feedback. We will deal with any issues these changes cause and are used to dealing with it.

<b>Parent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent session on readiness hub proposed for late February/early March – evening consultation and online session to follow. Part of our model of engaging with parents based on activity and learning and leading as discussed at last PC.</li> <li>• Business Breakfast – 11<sup>th</sup> March. To incorporate other work on involving parents in planning improvement around key areas. Built on pupil work around digital, outdoor, learning and teaching etc. Will allow parents to meet and partner with lead staff and pupil groups.</li> <li>• We will tie down parent event dates for next session before the improvement plan is finalised in May – we will evaluate the forms of engagement for what is best value.</li> <li>• Parents night for S1 and S4 – very successful and well attended.</li> <li>• Career information evenings for S2 and S4/5 in January – well attended and positive feedback. S2 parents able to meet departments and see resources. S4/5 parents able to meet with many partners for employment/careers/study as well as hear about process for choices in senior phase.</li> <li>• Visual updates on “You said, we did” shared with all parents, January 2025, covering points raised in last parent survey and response to this – 1140 views from parents on the summaries.</li> </ul>
<b>Pupil</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UCAS applications – Application deadline now past. 154 applications have been submitted and 133 of those have received at least one reply.</li> <li>• Many have been offered Conditional and Unconditional offers, including one Unconditional for Oxford.</li> <li>• Prelim diet completed for S4 and S5/6 pupils. Work underway to report back through interim tracking reports and parents' evenings. Triage groups for S4 have begun this week to support those who require support (building on success of last three years). Supported study starting this week for senior pupils.</li> </ul>

# BEARSDEN ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupil leadership teams contributing to planning for March 11<sup>th</sup> event through meeting leads for each area of improvement plan. Videos produced are being shared with parents.</li> <li>• Pupil Council continuing to deliver on feedback to assemblies including sharing "You said, we did" information with all year groups and ask for feedback.</li> <li>• New SQA Timetable published. SQA made changes to the 2025 exam timetable. They added an extra day which means exams will now start on Friday 25 April. The end date of Monday 2 June remains unchanged. The updated timetable is available now on SQA website.</li> <li>• Bearsden Academy has been awarded Foundation level of the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom. The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life and work in today's world.</li> <li>• Many of our extra curricular teams are having another successful season including out netball teams and football teams. The latter are expecting at least 4 cup finals and league championship winner's medals. In addition, we have 12 young people representing the school at the upcoming Scottish Schools Indoor Track and Field event at The Emirates Arena and one young person chosen to represent the Scotland U15 Ice Hockey squad for an upcoming tournament in Finland.</li> </ul>
<b>Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full round of Senior Leader observations and focus groups completed – 60 staff. Feedback to 18 departments including senior and junior focus groups. Departments now planning next steps for development through collaborative departmental meetings. Will also inform next steps for Learning and Teaching and moderation for next session. Lots of excellent practice observed around questioning, retrieval practice, use of technology, high expectations, peer work and positive learning environments.</li> <li>• All departments completed interim judgements around "How Good is Our School 4" Quality Indicators. This allows the school to focus on the evidence gathered by departments showing the quality of their work and plan to build on this through collaboration – e.g. through in-house learning festival event in May. Principal Teachers will be working through a scoping paper exercise together to look at next steps, in preparation for next session.</li> <li>• Staff training on new wellbeing/data tracker to allow effective interventions and tracking – underway from February.</li> <li>• Three members of teaching staff have taken up additional training offered through UWS to enhance their practice. The modules go towards Masters level accreditation.</li> </ul>
<b>Community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Languages event planned for February 12<sup>th</sup> – families involved in delivering and sharing cultural experiences.</li> </ul>

# BEARSDEN ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL



## 7. Any Other Business

Stuart asked about blocked pathways following the recent storm – whose responsibility is it to keep the paths clear? Mr Cooper said that it is EDC, however if parents are aware of any issues, he would be happy to escalate them.

Mr Cooper was asked by Rachel whether you get colours for playing sport for the school? There are no colours issued, however badges are given to pupils representing the school.

There was a discussion about the policy on mobile phones on school. EDC's policy on mobile phones was questioned by the parents at Bearsden Primary School and Mr Cooper and January were both asked for feedback. Following discussions with Greg Bremner at EDC, there will be policy updates for mobile phones across East Dunbartonshire and these should be released in May.

## 8. Date of Next Meeting

It was decided that the next meeting would be the 1<sup>st</sup> April at 7pm on Teams.