

BEARSDEN ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL



Wednesday 4th June at 7.00 pm
On Teams

Attendees

George Cooper
January Morgan White
Peter Liddle
Stuart Dickson
Rachel Huston
Katherine Sneedden
Lisa Manchanda

1. Welcome & Apologies

Janice sent her apologies in advance.

2. Introduction from the chair

January welcomed everybody to the meeting.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on Tuesday 4th February were reviewed. January approved them and Rachel seconded them.

4. Presentation by Mr Liddle

We are working through the themes of the Improvement Plan for next year at the moment through speaking to pupils, teachers, and the Parent Council. The priorities are promoting skills and community leadership. Across the curriculum, we have spoken to all teachers and many pupils and have gathered feedback over the year. There has also been feedback of family learning.

We have started to award digital badges to pupils where there are achievements related to the values of the school.

The second section is about self-evaluation, and making sure pupils get the help they need. We are adding a parent element to this and the feedback we received is that this could be improved.

We are making sure that these tie in with the UN Convention on Rights of Child, however Parents also have the opportunity to add things they are interested in which we may have missed.

Finally we are studying equity and, for example, intervening where pupils are unable to get the help they need if they can't get this during school times.

We receive pupil equity funding and Ruth can give the Parent Council an update on this.

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Mr Liddle then spoke to a second paper. We find that when we focus on things pupils are really interested in, rather than asking general questions, they are very engaged. We will use this approach for parents too and build workshops where we see opportunities, building on the parent leadership forum. This means that parents who are interested can pick and choose what they wish to focus on.

Mr Liddle asked the PC members to read over this and give him feedback.

5. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Head Teacher update

Parent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uniform Evening – 14th May and 2nd June - Both Uniform Evenings held on 14th May and 2nd June were a great success! Thanks to the fantastic organisation and support from staff and parents, families received clear guidance and helpful advice to ensure students were prepared and confident for the term ahead. We appreciate everyone's involvement in making these events so smooth and effective.• BGE Award Celebrations – S1 – S3 - The recent BGE Award Celebrations for S1 to S3 were a wonderful success! It was fantastic to recognise and celebrate the hard work, achievements, and personal growth of our young learners. An additional awards assembly will be arranged in the coming weeks for pupils who were unable to attend the main celebration due to participating in the fantastic Belgium trip. We look forward to recognising their achievements very soon.• 40 parents and carers have signed up to join our Parent Partnership programme. This is an incredible opportunity to strengthen the connection between school and home, working together to make a real impact on our students' learning and wellbeing. Over the coming weeks, Mr McArthur will be reaching out to each partner to begin shaping personalised plans that reflect your interests, strengths, and the needs of our school community.• We warmly invited parents and carers to join us at school to celebrate S6 Leavers' Day. This special occasion honoured our senior students as they completed their school journey and prepared for exciting new opportunities ahead. This was the first time we have had an afternoon event for parents of S6 and it was well attended and very successful.• S1 reports were issued today. This was later than planned but there has been a nationwide issue with Seemis (management system).
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Pupil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils have started new timetables with full school back 2/6/25. • S5/6 - Find Your Inspiration –This year, a group of S5 and S6 pupils worked with Eden Mill and Gavin’s Mill during exam leave, gaining valuable skills and experience across a wide range of activities. The feedback from pupils has been excellent, highlighting the positive impact of these partnerships. We would like to sincerely thank both Eden Mill and Gavin’s Mill for their time, support, and commitment to providing such meaningful opportunities for our students. • We have had a second successful year of partnering with Eden Mill to create an S2 outdoor learning and Creative Wellbeing experience. All S2 pupils had the opportunity to go to experience subjects in a new environment, including meeting alpacas. Eden Mill has offered bespoke opportunities for skill building and vocational experience to a number of pupils over April and May, allowing them to build confidence and qualifications in a new environment. • Bearsden Cafe Launch – We’re delighted to share the successful launch of the cafe now open to pupils and staff. The cafe has already become a vibrant part of our school community—a welcoming space where young people can meet, relax, and connect. At present, the cafe is being run by staff and a small number of S6, but over the next year, as pupils working towards their Barista qualification progress through the course, they will have the opportunity to volunteer and support its operation. This will allow us to extend the cafe’s opening hours and give our learners valuable, hands-on experience in a real-life setting. We’re excited to see how the cafe continues to grow and evolve as more pupils get involved. • During the month of May, each year group will focus on our core school values— Respect, Compassion, Inclusion, Equity, and Integrity—during their weekly assemblies. These sessions aim to deepen students’ understanding of what these values mean in everyday school life and how they can embody them both inside and outside the classroom. • On Friday 2nd May, pupils supported by Mrs Higgins and Miss Welsh took part in the My Voice, My Choice online feedback session, joining fellow secondary students from across East Dunbartonshire to share their views on the area’s future economic development. The session was led by Elisa Meza, Economic Development and Place Policy Officer at East Dunbartonshire Council, who is leading the creation of the region’s new Economic Development Strategy. This early engagement phase is focused on gathering evidence and listening to voices from across the community—including young people. The feedback gathered will help shape the direction of future planning, ensuring that young people’s perspectives are meaningfully included. A big thank you to our pupil forum representatives for their thoughtful contributions to this important conversation. • 4th April - Pupils from the Pupil Improvement Team and Pupil Council have been actively involved in refreshing our Education Service’s Vision, Values, and Aims. As part of this process, they created and shared a video presentation to provide their feedback directly to the Local Authority. This valuable input ensures that
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	<p>the voices of children and young people are at the heart of the consultation. We appreciate the opportunity given to our pupils to contribute meaningfully to shaping the future of education. Video link - https://glowscotland-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/ed010lwelsh_glow_sch_uk/EYOgFRh8ehFNqT5XCdtB3DkBFgXqCdZr7D1wWy6CbhLfVQ?e=EcF86w&nav=eyJyZWZlcnJhbEluZm8iOmsicmVmZXJyYWxBcHAiOiJTdHJlYW1XZWJBcHAiLCJyZWZlcnJhbFZpZXciOiJTaGFyZURpYWxvZy1MaW5rliwicmVmZXJyYWxBcHBQbGF0Zm9ybSI6IldlYiIsInJlZmVycmFsTW9kZSI6InZpZXcifX0%3D&referrer=Outlook.Web&referrerScenario=emai-linkwithembed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents were invited in for a “last day” celebration event. S6 Leaver Events – Successful day at West Rugby for the S6 leavers. Prom will be held later this week (Thursday 5/6) at the Crowne Plaza. • In June, The Pupil Improvement Teams and Miss Welsh will present at upcoming pupil assemblies to share the outcomes of the recent Business Breakfast partnership under the theme “You Said, We Did.” They will highlight the actions taken based on student feedback and invite anyone interested to join the improvement groups next year. • Our boys’ Senior Football Team won the prestigious Cameronian Cup Final at Celtic Park against St Peter the Apostle. A great result considering the strength of opposition. They will now play against the same opposition this coming Monday in the League Final at Holm Park, Yoker. • S3 boys team will play in EDC cup final next week. They have already won the EDC league. • To support senior pupils in preparing for their SQA examinations, Support Study sessions took place during the first week of the Easter holidays. • P7 Transition days will take place on the 9th and 10th of June – parent information evening will take place at 6.30pm on the 9th • Our new S4 pupils have recently returned from an inspiring and educational trip to the battlefields of Belgium. This fantastic experience gave them a unique opportunity to explore important historical sites, learn about the events of the World Wars firsthand, and reflect on the sacrifices made. The trip not only enriched their understanding of history but also helped build teamwork and resilience among the group. We’re proud of how the pupils represented the school throughout the visit. • A group of S5 & S6 pupils will be attending a Girls into Electronics event at the University of Strathclyde on Thursday 5th June.
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority of teachers have completed a Teacher Conference workshop on moderation of the Broad General Education. The school is focusing on developing an approach using pupil voice to inform judgements and moderation exercises. This is to provide skills that may benefit planning for the curriculum as the curriculum changes over the coming years. The discussions were beneficial,

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	<p>highlighting strong practice across the school and identifying needs for development over the next session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departments are feeding back via SLT about learning and teaching, and then meeting with departments to share final judgements against the How Good is Our School document. This will enable us to focus on departmental improvements over the coming session. • We are in the process of appointing a number of roles across the school, which should all be in place for the new term. • Strategic lead review meetings – Wider Achievement, Digital Learning, Creativity and STEM. Regular Strategic Lead Review Meetings have been held to evaluate and drive progress in key focus areas including Wider Achievement, Digital Learning, Creativity, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). These meetings bring together senior leaders and subject specialists to review current initiatives, share best practices, and set clear goals for continued improvement.
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PTA Summer Fayre – PTA Fayre will take place on Thursday 14th June, information has been shared with all parent/carers via group call. • Summer Music Concert – 11th and 12th of June • New S5 pupils are out on their Duke of Edinburgh Silver experience this week – we can't wait to hear all about their adventures and achievements.

7. Any Other Business

Stuart congratulated the school on the S6 Leavers afternoon, the afternoon at the rugby club, and the prom and said he was sure the leavers really appreciated all the efforts of the school to organise and run these events.

January will send out the Protecting Vulnerable Groups guidance – this is for those working in regulated roles in such as fundraising groups, PTA, Parent Council who may be at events with pupils where there are no teachers. EDC will cover the costs of these applications, and also cover insurance for events organised by groups affiliated to the school.

January thanked Mr Cooper, Mr Liddle, and all the teachers on behalf of all the parents for their hard work in successfully educating and supporting our children over the past year.

8. Date of Next Meeting

It was decided that the next meeting would be the AGM and the date would be the 16th September, a joint one with the PTA.