

BEARSDEN ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL



Tuesday 1st April 2025 at 7.00 pm
On Teams

Attendees

George Cooper
January Morgan White
Peter Liddle
Stuart Dickson
Rachel Huston
Debbie Monaghan
Janice McNaughton

1. Welcome & Apologies

Katherine Sneedan 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. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Head Teacher update

Mr Liddle spoke about the Readiness Hub. There has been a consultation with parents about how they feel this is working – the findings have been captured, and changes will be tried after the study leave ends in June. The main issue is that the school does not wish to further delay people who are already late. The average day sees around 50 pass through the hub, and with experience gained and feedback digested, hopefully this process can be further improved.

There was very positive feedback on the Business Breakfast event, and the Pupil Improvement Plan.

The PTA organised several events to ease the transition from primary to secondary. The coffee morning and the 3 tours of the school for new pupils and their parents were very well attended and received.

BEARSDEN ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL



Mr Liddle aims to produce a calendar of events for the 2025-26 session around initiatives such as the Pupil Improvement Plan so that parents can see and plan around these dates.

Parent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents participated in consultation on Readiness Hub. 13 parents came in person with 3 online. Interesting discussion and some next steps – to be shared as Sway with parents this week. • Business Breakfast – 11th March. Parents and partners attended and supported discussion with pupil and teacher groups on next steps for improvement. All next steps will be fed into draft improvement plan • S5/6 parents' night – high turnout and very positive. • S3 Mathematics Course Information evening held last week – course pathway and course information • S4 Silver DOE Information Evening held last week, to support preparations for course completion and forth coming expedition. • PTA Primary 7 event – tours of the building and time for meet and greet with PTA/parents. Well attended and positive.
Pupil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triage, supported study and specific targeted interventions in place for pupils across S4-S6. Supported Study has finished – positive engagement from pupils and, alongside interventions in school time, offering a good platform for being ready for final exams. • S3 Triage will begin after Easter break to support transition to Senior Phase. • S4 – 6 Revision Support will run in limited subjects between 7th – 10th April, details available on Satchel One and information for group call will be sent to parents and carers for sign up. • Pupils involved in consultation with East Dunbartonshire Council around values, vision and aims of East Dunbartonshire Council Education– made a presentation to be shared with EDC team leads. • Pupils represented Bearsden Academy on Monday 24th March 2025 at Kirkintilloch Town Hall in a meeting with the Travelling Cabinet. Pupils from pupil voice improvement team represented the school to ask questions to the cabinet with regards to education. • Dance Fest – S1-6 pupils celebrated outstanding achievement this year winning - Senior Lyrical 1st Place, Senior Hip Hop 2nd Place, Senior Duet Hip Hop 2nd Place, Junior Lyrical 1st Place, Junior Other/Jazz 2nd Place, Junior Duet Hip Hop 2nd Place, Junior Duet Lyrical 4th Place and Junior Duet Other 5th Place. Thank you to the S4 pupils who worked with junior pupils over the past terms to plan dances and supported with rehearsals. This is another example of pupil leadership at work. • S3 Leadership group began this week. A group of pupils are working towards Bearsden BGE Leadership Award, building their skills. • The boys senior football team have reached the final of the Cameronian Cup – a prestigious competition – after beating stiff competition for the second year in a row. The final will take place at Celtic Park after the 18th of May (tbc). They

BEARSDEN ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL



	<p>are also in the league semifinals of the Glasgow Schools Football Association and EDC Cup.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P7 Transition events have continued throughout February and March, with P7 visiting a full range of curricular areas for after-school sessions each Thursday. We are looking forward to welcoming all P7 pupils back for the annual Fun Run and Cross-Country Championship Event in April, followed by two full days on timetable in June. Enhanced transition visits have also continued for those young people who benefit from targeted supports, with initial tours leading to break and lunch time social support sessions and then progressing on to additional class time in April and May. • Senior phase pupils have continued to be supported by Year Heads, Guidance teachers, SDS Careers coaches and others in applying and interviewing for employment, apprenticeships, college and university places. Many young people in S6 and some in S4 and S5 have now formally accepted offers for places they will take up later in the year.
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department meetings around quality of learning and teaching almost completed – discussion informing next steps for all teachers. Focus next session on moderation cycle to improve experience for young people in terms of learning, teaching and assessment. • Working Time Agreement, improvement planning – in preparation for next session. Keen to capture parent views and ensure calendar of engagement.
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Languages event on 12th very successful – many pupils and parents attended and enjoys music, food, discussion and learning together. • On Saturday, March 29th, the PTA hosted a wonderful Welcome Coffee Morning, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere for everyone. The PE staff led exciting games for our P7 pupils, while students and staff proudly facilitated tours of the school. This fantastic event was shared with all primary schools, and we were thrilled to welcome around 150 P7 students who joined us for a memorable day. • DYW Link established with local community cafe Gavins Mill Milngavie, 5 weeks hospitality course has been offered which will be built into find your Inspiration programme for pupils over the senior exam leave. • The PTA is excited to announce that we are planning a Summer Fair on June 14th! Stay tuned for more details, which will be available in May. We look forward to seeing everyone there for a fun-filled day!

6. Any Other Business

January asked about the protocol for supported study. This is announced on Satchel and the next session is during the first week of the Easter Holidays. In addition, if the school has identified a particular need, the school does contact parents to suggest taking advantage of the specific help available.

Stuart asked about the Sustrans initiative 'Big Walk & Wheel' where the schools encourage pupils to either walk or cycle to school and there are several schools in the region taking part. The school has

BEARSDEN ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL



been approached by Sustrans in recent days and Mr Stevenson has taken this up for evaluation – probably for next year.

January discussed a letter received from a group of parents from Bearsden Primary who are leading an initiative to stop pupils taking mobile phones into school. There will be a consultation on this issue led by EDC and parents will have the chance to respond.

7. Date of Next Meeting

It was decided that the next meeting would be on Tuesday 3rd June at 7pm on Teams.