

# BEARSDEN ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL



## Minutes for the meeting on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.00 pm On Teams

### Attendees

George Cooper (Head Teacher)  
January Morgan White (Chair)  
Peter Liddle (Depute Head Teacher)  
Stuart Dickson (Secretary)  
Katherine Sneedan  
Lisa Manchanda  
Gary Sloan (Depute Head Teacher)  
Leanne Welsh (Acting Depute Head Teacher)

### 1. Welcome & Apologies

Rachel sent her apologies in advance.

### 2. Introduction from the chair

January welcomed everybody to the meeting.

### 3. Matters arising

Miss Welsh discussed the pupil leadership team breakfast, set for next Tuesday – the pupils are keen to meet and discuss where they have been making progress. Parents and carers have been invited and a strong turnout is expected. Others will have the opportunity to participate in the future.

Mr Sloan gave an update on the parental leadership group, to pick up on the work Michael Healy did a couple of years ago. Subjects they have been discussing include studying at home, better communication to understand what topics pupils are studying, and wellbeing matters such as help with better sleeping.

Katherine approved the minutes and January seconded.

Katherine said that she really appreciated the increased communication from the school via the weekly Sway. Mr Cooper credited Mr Liddle, who spends much time on this. The school continues to speak to parents about this to get an idea of what people want to see and how it is being used.

January talked about the help the PTA has provided to the school, including helping furnish and decorate the wellbeing room in the Hub, which has been made to be more welcoming to pupils who may be in a stressful or difficult situations. Asda Bearsden has started to supply the PTA with some basics such as fresh shirts, deodorants, and so on for those who may find they need such things for various reasons.

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January spoke about the PTA and the ELR. She is waiting on the accounts for the PTA being finalised and looks forward to presenting on the plans to

#### 4. Head Teacher's briefing note

##### **Head Teacher's Briefing: Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026**

Key documents published to school website:

Standards and Quality report: <https://sway.cloud.microsoft/Emw5nw4kmg5rZwiB?ref=Link>

Improvement Plan: <http://www.bearsdenacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/media/20986/ba-improvement-plan-25-26.pdf>

Parent version of Improvement Plan: <http://www.bearsdenacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/media/20999/school-improvement-plan-guide-for-parents.pdf>

Assessment calendar: <http://www.bearsdenacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/pupil-zone/planned-assessment/>

Results Summary presentation:  
[Parent results overview.pptx](#)

<p><b>Parent</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly updates continue – around 10,000 views of updates so far – most reaching half the parents (apart from last week!)</li> <li>• Parent Partnership Database – Careers event took place 20th January. All S3 pupils got to meet with 9 parents who discussed careers. Excellent feedback from pupils.</li> <li>• Parent survey/focus groups arranged for EDC Quality Review (23-25<sup>th</sup> February). Positive feedback in line with EDC stats. Successful parent focus group during EDC Quality Review (thanks!).</li> <li>• Pupil Improvement Team Breakfast – group call sent out for event next week.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pupil</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular December and January events – parents' evenings for S1, S2, S4, S6 Christmas dance, Afternoon and evening Christmas concerts, S2 Information Evening, S4/5 Careers evening, all well attended and successful!</li> <li>• Parents evenings – continued high uptake</li> <li>• Information evenings – both well attended. 5 ex-pupils representing companies/organisations at Careers event. All subjects represented for S2 parents as well as Guidance/Careers advice.</li> <li>• Pupil Improvement Team groups have all met with staff links to collaborate on action plans. Information on the Business Breakfast (10<sup>th</sup> March) has been released via Groupcall.</li> </ul>

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- The Pupil Parliament continues to meet to discuss the HGIOURS statement. After pupil consultation, young people can now fill out a QR code to share their views on any aspect of the school. The Pupil Parliament are presenting at assemblies this week.
- S4-6 Supported Study Issued (2<sup>nd</sup> Feb – 27<sup>th</sup> March). We have also included signposting to online resources and virtual study sessions ( provided by e-sgoil), allowing pupils to access help via e-sgoil at home. [Support Study Timetable Block 2.mp4](#)
- The Hub is a new area of the school designed to wrap around our pupils and meet them wherever they are in their journey. It serves as support for those struggling with attendance and a space for targeted pupils, offering a consistent sense of belonging and wellbeing. Beyond emotional support, the room is a vibrant centre for growth, hosting tailored workshops for Numeracy and Literacy, alongside essential 'Skills for Learning, Life, and Work' to help our young people look toward their futures with confidence. Whether it is facilitating enhanced transitions, supporting ESOL pupils, support for learning workshops or delivering 'Ready to Learn' and Guidance wellbeing programmes, every intervention is delivered with the goal of tailored intervention for each young person to support individual need. The Hub also contains a uniform bank pupils can access at any time. [Bearsden Academy Hub 2.mp4](#)
- S2 into S3 personalisation and choice process began last week, all S2 pupils will receive a 1-1 meeting with their Guidance Teacher.
- S2 into S3 options choice complete all pupils have returned options via Guidance to Mrs Higgins
- S3,4 and 5 Personalisation and Choice are in progress, return deadline 6<sup>th</sup> March. Support is available from Guidance Teachers, Year Head, Mr Liddle and Mrs Higgins.
- Senior Phase Partnership College offering shared with pupils and parent/carers as part of S5/6 options.
- Work Experience support time available weekly with Mr McArthur via the Hub, QR code around the school and on hub door to support with applications, CV, work experience and suing Work It resource.
- School Cafe is now opening Monday – Friday, Junior and Senior Lunch – thankyou to all our pupil and staff volunteers.
- Cafe name voting is currently being collated cafe name will be launched in the coming weeks.
- Alton Towers – S5 Trip ( 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2026) - Information shared with S5 pupils/parents for sign up.
- S2 – Ski Trip – Mr Sloan (next spring)
- S4 and S5/6 Triage started in place during core time to support pupils.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STEM family learning sessions for S1 have been taking place this month. There are three sessions which focus on an “Egg Drop Challenge” led by the D &amp; T department.</li> <li>• Young people across a range of year groups, including pupils in the ELR recently made the first of a series of visits to Buchanan Care Home. This partnership will provide opportunities to develop Meta Skills and life skills. It will provide valuable opportunities for those wishing to pursue caring professions.</li> <li>• Many young people in the Senior Phase are currently being supported with transitions on to their next step by staff across the school. Some have accessed support in preparing for college, university and apprenticeship interviews, for example. Of 161 UCAS applicants, 158 have heard from at least one of their chosen institutions, with many being made Conditional and Unconditional offers. Offers have been received from a wide range of Universities all across Scotland and further afield, including both Oxford and Cambridge.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Staff</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality Assurance continues with classroom visits and focus groups:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ All BGE pupils have been involved in focus group sessions</li> <li>○ All departments have been observed over September to December</li> <li>○ Some S4-S6 focus groups completed, more to come</li> <li>○ Department ratings continue to improve and reflect continued evaluation of performance</li> <li>○ 60 observations completed across 19 departments</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Quality Review for EDC completed!             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 12 staff (QIO, HT, DHT, PT) visited Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb to Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Feb</li> <li>○ Visited 50+ classes, spoke to 19 groups of parents/pupils/teachers/SLAs/Support staff</li> <li>○ Positive experience – the school was able to highlight best practice across a variety of areas.</li> <li>○ Thanks to pupil, staff, parent and partner volunteers</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Moderation Update : All department have taken part in two whole school Moderation tasks to date for the 2025-2026 session. Task 1 – department moderation activity and task 2 Literacy Moderation. Following the Literacy Moderation we have put in place tailored Literacy Support for each department supported by the PT English. To support collaboration, we have created a digital platform to share "best practice" and moderate student work. For Moderation Task 3 ( Feb/March) - We are giving teachers the autonomy to focus their professional development where it is needed most. For their final term project, departments will choose between deepening their Literacy strategies or focusing on Metaskills, ensuring their training directly benefits their specific students.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tracking meetings for S4 and S5/6 have taken place.</li></ul>
<b>Community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We have a new Police Officer working with the school, Anna McFarland, who replaced Chris Birney.</li><li>• PT Wider Achievement/DYW linked with staff and parents/carers for an 'I Try' week in December. A number of successful, parent-led sessions.</li><li>• PTA Christmas Fair – another busy and successful night for the PTA.</li><li>• PTA Meeting 3/2/26 - Fundraising ideas shared, welcomed Mrs Bruce into the team</li><li>• Continuation of a variety of other community engagements including paired reading, sports ambassadors, digital ambassadors, volunteers.</li></ul>

## 5. Any Other Business

Lisa asked about school trips - are they advertised or passed via email? Mr Cooper said that is usually advertised via the pupils who go home with information, depending on the subject choice e.g. the Battlefield Trip, the Music Trip. We do want to get back to pre-Covid level of activity. Lisa suggested that these were placed on the website or some other method

There was a question about the Geography department - 2 teachers are off a critical time of year. Mr Cooper said that a Geography supply teacher, increased hours of an existing team member, and extra hours from a teacher at another school will fully cover the issue and that he is comfortable with the situation.

## 6. Date of Next Meeting

It was decided that the next meeting would be the Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of May at 7pm on Teams.