

# BEARSDEN ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL



This meeting took place at Bearsden Academy on 1 November 2022 at 7pm

## **Attendees**

Chris Dorman (Chair)  
George Cooper (Head Teacher)  
Stuart Dickson (Secretary)  
Michael Healy (Depute Head Teacher)  
Jen McMartin  
Debbie Monaghan  
Rachel Huston  
Andrew Cooper  
January Morgan White  
Wendy McLaren  
Cllr Vaughn Moody  
Joyce Ling  
Alvin Liu  
Anna McDade  
Katherine Sneedon  
Andrea Glendinning  
Dr Katherine McKenzie

## **Welcome & Introductions**

### **Apologies**

Chris thanked everyone for their attendance – it was encouraging to see so many wishing to engage with the school. Wendy received an email from Katherine Sneedon who wishes to join but was unable to attend this meeting. Jen, Debbie and Martin also wish to join.

### **Minutes**

The minutes to the last meeting were checked and approved. Chris asked all to reflect on the excellent exam results on page 3. Wendy proposed and Stuart accepted.

# BEARSDEN ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL



## Councillor Moody

Cllr Moody was present to take questions over any issues arising at EDC. He was asked about the plan to decant Bearsden Primary pupils to the grounds of Bearsden Academy. No further details were available at present, however Cllr Moody pledged to find out and brief us in the next meeting as details were confirmed. He said that 3 other sites were considered; however, the grounds of the Academy were the only realistic option.

January said that Bearsden Primary had the first consultation 2 months ago. It seems likely to be a 12–18-month build. The quality of the temporary buildings will be high, however some issues still have to be agreed, such as meal provision.

The details of the plans should be released shortly and these can be discussed in future meetings. Perhaps the Parent Council should ask to be invited to update meetings with representatives of the developers, council, and the community council as we are a stakeholder.

There should be no impact of the pupils of the Academy, with little or no integration or interaction with the Primary and their pupils.

## Matters arising

No matters arising via email and Chris asked for these to be sent to him in advance to allow

# BEARSDEN ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL



## Head Teacher report

Mr Healy said that all senior pupils have had a report and that 4th year and below will all be done in coming weeks.

We have started to hold in person parents' evenings – the feedback has been great; however, parents often want longer than the appointment time. Some would like it later in the year. It is extremely difficult to organise reports, parents' evenings and all the other events at a time to suit everyone. If parents wish extra contact and have further questions or concerns, they should get in touch with the school.

There have been more 'Sways' shared at assemblies, parents' evenings, and sent to parents by email. This is to highlight achievement and what is going on at the school.

Mr Cooper said that 4 PC members have volunteered to help with the school improvement plan. This enhances the link between the PC and the school. It is a democratic process and includes everyone from pupils to parents.

The school are reviewing interval and lunchtime arrangements post-Covid and we will be in touch with parents about any changes.

We have Rights Respecting School council within the school and members have been updating fellow pupils at assemblies as part of their leadership journey.

Duke of Edinburgh scheme is well underway, and the Careers Service has confirmed that positive destinations data is sitting at 100% as of today.

The pupil voice team is working on rewards and highlighting good performance of pupils to encourage others.

Guidance for the SQA appeals process has just been released. We have been successful in numerous cases in the past, raising grades and increasing the number of passes. If an appeal has the potential to change someone's opportunities, we will work with the pupils to apply.

# BEARSDEN ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL



165 pupils have registered with UCAS already. We have a long history of success in helping youngsters get into what they want to do post-school.

Breakfast club to help pupils in difficult circumstances is back.

We have redesigned a room so that we have a private technology room to complete assessments for example.

Police and Fire Service were in last week to warn of the dangers of this time of year.

EDC have helped with the new bike shelters and we continue to grow cycling capacity. We are delivering cycling courses SCQF qualifications.

Turning to staff, we asked to volunteer to mentor youngsters, we had a fantastic response – around half the staff have asked to be part of it. Initiatives include a new professional learning community who share learning and ideas with fellow staff members to communicate tips and experiences learnt over the years.

We have just appointed 5 new strategic leadership places, for example to support recovery and welling being, creative digital feedback, leadership empowerment, and STEM. This has just started – they will be responsible to Mr Cooper and it is a way to agitate and gain new insights and empowering change and improvements.

Mr Healy said that the PTA are back with the next big thing being the Christmas Fayre. We've also been speaking about how to build on our relationships as part of the wider community. In the past we have delivered parcels to the elderly, and the feedback has been fantastic, with expressions of gratitude and joy from recipients.

We will be represented at the Remembrance Sunday event at The Cross.

We have a full program of events between those developing the new nursery at Brookwood Villa and the pupils who are interested in the trades involved in these works.

The school hosted the Thomas Muir Symposium. This highlighted the events and issues around his life. Departments including Art, Design, Drama, and Technology all participated, including a play which was very well attended. We brought the community in to the school building, and again this was very well received by the Symposium members.

# BEARSDEN ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL



## **Combined PTA and Parent Council event**

We've discussed this in the past and we agreed to host a joint event sometime in 2023 to discuss what both are doing and exchange ideas.

## **AGM date to the Parent Council**

Chris proposed the February meeting of the Parent Council as the AGM.

## **AoB**

There were no other issues to be discussed.

## **The date of the next meeting**

We agreed the next meeting will be on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February