

**Dalkeith High School Parent Council
AGM**

**Tuesday 12 September 2017
7pm DHS Art Department**

Welcome: Caroline welcomed everybody to the meeting especially the S1 parents

Present: Caroline Pearson (CP), Allyson Dobson (AD), Morag Ryan, Julie Darling, Phil Bowen, Stuart McDonald, Nicola Johnson, Julie Hunter, Sheila Macaloney and Deborah Slater

Apologies: Marianne Flockhart, Diane Hedlund, Pauline Dickson,

Notification of AOCB: none

Minutes from previous AGM: These were approved

Election of office bearers:

Chair: Caroline Pearson (nominated by Morag Ryan, seconded by Allyson Dobson)

Secretary: position vacant, minute taking will be done on a rota basis for now

Treasurer: Diane Hedlund (nominated by Nicola Johnson, seconded by Deborah Slater)

Chair's report: Caroline summarised some of the contributions to the school made by the Parent Council over the last year including:

- tracking, monitoring and reporting
- uniform (several times!)
- vision statement for the school
- spending priorities for PTA fundraising
- pupil equity funding
- parent reps on interview board for Depute (more training to be provided for parents wishing to undertake this role in future)
- raising attainment
- parent input to validated self-evaluation
- PC input at P7 evenings
- joint working with Pupil Voice
- lots of fundraising success for PTA – CP gave particular emphasis to this as three parents have worked extremely hard to raise over £5000 in just one year. She thanked Nicola, Diane and Pauline for their incredible achievement in such a short space of time and expressed the gratitude of the Parent Council. AD echoed this on behalf of the school.

Caroline also recommended being involved in the the Parent Council to all parents at the school as it is a great way to help form school policy and to have the ear of the HT

The minutes of all Parent Council meetings are on the school website if parents would like more detail on any of the above

Treasurer's Report: Written report and accounts summary submitted by Anne Murray (outgoing Treasurer), these are attached

Head Teacher's Report: Allyson Dobson gave a report which included:

- Feedback on exam results and senior school prize-giving
- Acknowledgement of strong performing departments across the school
- Pleased with attainment and the way changes in the curriculum have worked
- The way that the curriculum encourages all pupils to reach their potential, allowing for a less academic, more practical route but also allowing for accelerated learning when appropriate
- Highlighting wider achievement and how this is reported in the school newsletter and on the website
- Congratulating all pupils who achieved Duke of Edinburgh awards this year with particular mention of the 20 who reached gold and were presented with their awards by Prince Edward at Holyrood Palace
- Details of all new staff appointments
- Another very successful school show, Grease, and plans for this year's school show including double casting to allow for even more pupils to participate
- Sports Day – Buccleuch won the trophy
- Lothian won the house points competition with seniors going to Alton Towers and S1 – S3 going to Blair Drummond Safari Park
- Many visitors to the school over the year but notably MSPs from the Scottish Parliament Education and Skills Committee who very complimentary about the pupils that they met
- The hair and beauty salon is now open in the school with plans to open it up as a community resource in the future. Tour during future Parent Council meeting.
- Report on the sustainability options in school including the horticulture course and forest school.
- Global education this year included five S5 pupils joining the Confucius Institute trip to China, the South Africa trip plus the annual Jarnac Exchange. This year there will also be an exchange with a school in Barcelona
- There was an S6 leavers ceremony to which parents were invited, this was a success and is likely to be repeated
- Results of “How good is DHS?” will be published on the school website
- Thanking Parent Council for its support over the last year

A number of questions were asked following HT's report:

1. Problems recruiting to maths - AD responded stressing that a national problem, not just DHS, and a number of creative solutions are being tried out to fill these posts
2. Question about the publicising of school clubs and issues of transport home from after-school clubs. Transport is already being looked into. A “Freshers Fair” type event was suggested to advertise the options available
3. There was a question about the Children’s University and this was answered by AD
4. CP has been contacted by the Chair of Lasswade HS Parent Council requesting to work more closely together, it was agreed this joint working would be mutually beneficial
5. The agenda for the next meeting was discussed and then the meeting was closed

Dates of Parent Council meetings 2017/18:

26 September 2017, 14 November 2017, 16 January 2018, 27 February 2018,
24 April 2018, 29 May 2018