

Dalkeith High School Parent Council Meeting

23 January 2018

7pm Art Department

Present: Allyson Dobson (AD), Phil Bowen (PB), Marianne Flockhart, Stuart McDonald, Julie Darling, Nicola Johnson, Julie Bones (JB), Craig Knight, Mary McLeod, Pauline Dickson

Apologies: Stephanie Heasman, Chantal Bruce, Caroline Pearson, Alison Binns, Diane Hedlund

Previous Actions

2017-02	AD has emailed the PTA with information regarding possible PE equipment
2017-03 and 04	As an outdoor shelter and drinking fountains concerns shared school areas, AD confirmed that she has obtained agreement from the other schools. Change notices requesting costs have been passed to BAM.
2017-05	Unfortunately, there is no space to accommodate lockers and this won't change in the foreseeable future, therefore this action has been closed.
2017-06	Two beautiful Christmas trees were placed in the Assembly hall and corridor. Thank you to PTA.
2017-07	Carried forward
2017-08	The S1 video has been added to the website.

AD was also looking into the possibility of getting a plasma TV, and a change notice has been passed to BAM.

Coursing Process

Julie Bones gave an overview of the coursing process:

Senior phase (S4/5/6) process was reviewed in 2016/2017 to offer a more varied curriculum to include

- More vocational opportunities
- Senior years were timetabled together
- Clearer progression
- 'Stage not age'
- Space for personal achievement and skills development
- Additional academic options e.g. YASS
- Opportunities through partnerships e.g. colleges

Last year the Broad General Education (BGE) years (S1/2/3) curriculum was reviewed, particularly 3rd year – subjects were grouped into curriculum areas, including more vocational based options, while still getting the required breadth for BGE.

A varied curriculum is one of DHS strengths – other Midlothian schools do not always offer the same choice.

There will be a combined coursing evening and curriculum evening in DHS on 7th February, letters have been sent out.

Coursing arrangements – important dates

BGE – current S2

22 January 2018	Letter to parents/carers re Pathways evening
7 February 2018	S3 Learning Pathways option sheet and booklet issued to Pupils
7 February 2018	Pathways evening – 7.30 pm for current S2 pupils
8 February 2018	S2 Tracking report 2 issued
21 February 2018	S2 Parents evening
26 February (w/c)	S2 Coursing week (with guidance staff)

Senior Phase (current S3/4/5)

22 January 2018	Letter to parents/carers re Pathways evening
7 February 2018	Senior phase option sheet and booklet issued
7 February 2018	Pathways evening - 6.15 pm for senior phase
20 February 2018	S3 Pathways letter issued (including likely level of study for S4)
23 February 2018	Senior phase tracking report 2 issued
5 March 2018 (w/c)	S4/5 coursing week (with guidance staff)
12 March 2018 (w/c)	S3 coursing week (with guidance staff)

PTA update

Nicola provided a brief PTA update – PTA made an application for a small grant through Midlothian Council but has been unsuccessful.

A possible bag pack with Morrisons is being looked into – awaiting confirmation from Morrisons. Three sponsors have been found for F1 – Vic Leggat is dealing.

Head Teacher update

School Review

A school review (by Midlothian Council) took place over 13-16 November 2017, and was run as if it was a school inspection. The results were very good and here are a few highlights:

- Learning, teaching and assessment – Good
- Ensuring well-being, equality and inclusion – Good
- Raising attainment and achievement – Good
- Current pathways – Strong
- Partnerships with parents/carers – Strong

Some comments:

- Positive relationships
- Good pupil engagement
- Visible learning intentions and success criteria
- Feedback used well
- School has a calm atmosphere
- Good inclusion in learning despite some having learning barriers
- Good extra curricula activities e.g. school show
- Attainment good and getting better
- All backgrounds achieving
- Many opportunities for wider achievement
- Strong house identity
- Very clear pathways and many vocational learning opportunities
- Senior phase better meets needs of learners

- Improved enjoyment of learners
- Website is considered to be one of the best
- Supportive Parent Council and PTA
- Good communication with parents/carers

School Inspection

A formal HMIE inspection will take place week beginning 5th February 2018. There is a short [survey](#) available on the school website – please take the time to complete it!

Parent focus groups will be run on Tuesday 6 February (am and pm) – if you would like to take part please indicate via the survey.

AOCB

Marianne raised a question about pupil access to toilets during class time. The main toilets are open all day; other toilets around the school are not generally open during the day. If pupils need to go to the toilet during class time, they should ask their teacher for a toilet pass, and use the main toilets.

Alison Binns asked a question about the possibility of the school having a bank account to facilitate the direct payment of fees for school trips etc. AD confirmed this is in the pipeline but requires the go-ahead from the council.

There was a discussion around the use of messaging apps for communication. Some council members have seen how the app School Pidgeon works with other schools and have been quite impressed. AD advised that this app was not being considered at the moment, but she was looking into some homework apps with can include messaging e.g. Show My Homework and Toot Toot (for pupils but can send a message to the guidance teacher). All apps have to be considered by the council regarding any data protection issues.

Parent Council Meeting Dates 2017/2018

27 February 2018

24 April 2018

29 May 2018

Actions

Ref	Action	Owner	Date Raised	Comments
2017-02	Pupil Voice to investigate and detail what PE equipment is needed	PV/Gail Preston	26/09/2017	14/11/2017 – carried forward 23/01/2018 – information emailed to PTA
2017-03	Investigate with BAM what can be done to accommodate outdoor sheltered area	Allyson Dobson	26/09/2017	14/11/2017 – carried forward 23/01/2018 – shared area permission obtained and change notice passed to BAM
2017-04	Investigate with BAM options for water fountains to fill bottles	Allyson Dobson	26/09/2017	14/11/2017 - carried forward 23/01/2018 – shared area permission obtained and change notice passed to BAM
2017-05	Consider what can be done to accommodate lockers	Allyson Dobson	26/09/2017	14/11/2017 – carried forward 23/01/2018 – AD is unable to take this forward as no space to accommodate lockers. Complete

2017-06	PTA to look into getting 2 nd Christmas tree to place in more prominent position, e.g. dining area or assembly hall	Diane Hedlund/ Nicola Johnson	26/11/2017	14/11/2017 – carried forward 23/01/2018 – Complete
2017-07	Speak with Joyce Bain to enable school tweets to be posted on PTC/PTA Facebook page	Phil Bowen	26/09/2017	14/11/2017 – carried forward 23/01/2018 – carried forward
2017-08	See if S1 video can be added to school website	Allyson Dobson	14/11/2017	23/01/2018 – complete
2018-01	Investigate possibility of homework/messaging app	Allyson Dobson	23/11/2018	23/01/2018 - AD is looking at a couple of apps
2018-02	Plasma TV	Allyson Dobson	23/01/2018	23/01/2018 - A change notice has been passed to BAM