



Kinross High School Parent Council
Kinross High School
Loch Leven Community Campus
Muir
Kinross
KY13 8FQ

**Kinross High School Parent Council
Tuesday 19th January 2021**

Attendance

Laura Alexander (Chair)
Catriona Culley (Treasurer)
Sarah Brown (Head Teacher)
Andrew Baxby (Depute Head Teacher)
Christina Smith
Gemma Toon
Nicola Carmichael
Heidi Cameron
Penny Johnston
Karin Dunlop
Kirsty Flockhart
Jackie Lyon
Cllr Richard Watters (part-time)
Cllr Callum Purves (part-time)
Rosemary Cameron (Clerk)

Apologies

Heather Wilkins
Yvette Noble
Vicki Wilson

Minutes

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

The meeting was held via Zoom with Laura as host. Apologies were received as above. An apology was received from Scott Urquhart who was to give presentations on the Technology Dept and the SQA QA Working Group. Andrew Baxby stepped in at short notice to do an SQA update and the Technology presentation will be rescheduled for the meeting on 27th April.

2. Review of previous minutes and actions arising

The minutes for December were approved - proposed by Nicola Carmichael and seconded by Catriona Culley.

Actions arising:

No	Action	Actionee	Status
1	Send a representative from the PC to school assemblies.	Laura Alexander	On hold due to Covid restrictions
2	Find a way to transfer blazer money from parentpay to the PC bank account.	Gemma Toon	Continuing
3	Invite the Technologies Dept to the January meeting and Science Dept to the March meeting.	Laura Alexander	Complete
4	Send a reminder to Local Councillors before the January meeting.	Laura Alexander	Complete

3. Presentation by Scott Urquhart, PT Technology

This will be rescheduled to April's meeting. Action Laura Alexander.

4. Presentation on SQA QA Working Group by Andrew Baxby

This presentation was based on the SQA update of 12th January which is available on the SQA website.

The National Qualifications 2021 Group is looking at an alternative certification model and extending the date for submitting provisional results.

January priorities are to concentrate on teaching rather than assessments.

Subject specific guidance will be issued by the SQA by the end of January.

Higher and Advanced Higher certification will be co-created, moderated and teacher assessed.

There will be no diet of prelims.

Teachers will need to be flexible and aware of different pupil experiences of home schooling. There will need to be a period of consolidation on the return of pupils to school.

Ongoing assessment is not new - it happens every year. The final assessment will be based on the level attained by the end of the year.

Provisional grades are not the same as UCAS predictions - the latter are not based on as much evidence as they have to be done in November and so the Provisional Grades are more accurate.

There is a possibility of the year being extended to June which is a concern.

The question was asked about why SQA are not assessing dissertations or portfolios. This was a decision made by SQA, not the school.

Parents raised concerns about how to motivate their children and the problem of a lack of the shock factor which can encourage a child to do better after a poor prelim result. Parent evenings are still happening online and parents will get tracking reports which show the current working grade. The school puts out guidance on how to interpret these tracking reports.

If parents have concerns they can contact the house pupil support team.

The Parent Council asked Mr Baxby to pass on a formal message of appreciation to all the staff for their hard work in these very difficult times.

5. Head Teacher's Report

Staffing

Mrs Milne (Drama) and Mr Chen (Mandarin) are leaving.

Chemistry interviews have taken place and there is an excellent candidate the school hope to appoint.

There are strong candidates for the 0.6 FTE PT Pupil Support post.

The process of recruiting for a 1 FTE Drama teacher has started.

The 0.6 FTE Mandarin vacancy will be covered in-house for the rest of this year and the school is looking for a probationer for next academic year.

Pupil support absence has now been resolved.

The additional staff for Covid cover is currently 2 FTE teachers which is not enough – when the pupils are all in school 7 additional teachers are required just to ensure that we comply with Covid regulations. This means that extra duties are falling onto other teachers.

Covid

The school is now closed until 15th February at the earliest. This will be reviewed by the Scottish Government on 2nd February and there will possibly be a phased return when it happens. Most pupils are using google classrooms, following the timetable and there is some live interaction.

Key worker pupils are attending the hub at the school and accessing google classrooms there.

(Maximum of 5% of pupils.) Enhanced protection measures have been put in place for them.

Pupils needing additional support have been identified by their house teams or were already receiving additional support. Running the hub requires 5 extra teachers in addition to the 2 teachers provided for additional covid cover and so this impacts on the online learning those teachers would otherwise be providing.

Feedback has been more positive than the first lockdown and pupil engagement is higher.

The structure of home learning since Christmas is working but has raised questions - should all pupils be on the same timetable as regards timing, since this affects households with pupils in different years, and should more breaks from the screen be built in?

IT problems for those at home are dealt with on an individual basis.

There has been a live event for parents - 'Supporting your child online' and the next one will be on

the SQA.

A partial S1 parent contact evening and a full S2 evening have been held using Microsoft Teams where the staff were in the school. Further parent evenings have been postponed to allow arrangements to be made for staff to do it from home. It is hoped to announce new dates soon.

Planning for Next Year

Some of the changes made for Covid have proved popular and so the school is considering whether or not to keep them. Input from the Parent Council is welcome - see item 10. Examples of popular changes are the new timetable and the staggered breaks. Also the S1 day for pupils coming up from primary school.

6. Update from Local Councillors

This year's budget will be for 1 year instead of the usual 3 years and it will be limited to updating assumptions and minor changes - there are no proposals for big cuts anticipated - however the councillors have not seen the final proposals.

The Parent Council expressed concern over staffing levels at the school during the pandemic - there are not enough extra teachers for the hub currently, or to allow staff to ensure Covid compliance, provide face to face teaching and support pupils self isolating when all pupils are allowed to return to school. In addition, staff will have to carry out additional assessment tasks to replace the SQA

exams in the summer. The councillors were asked had the council been given extra funding and the answer was no. There was some extra money at the beginning of the pandemic but there are no continuing extra funds for schools. Councillor Purves agreed to feed back concerns about staff doing 3 jobs - the hub, online learning and SQA assessment - to the Lifelong Learning Group which was meeting on 20th January. Staff absences due to self-isolation is also putting pressure on the school. Scotland's Clinical Director Jason Leitch has stated that there will be no priority given to teachers for the vaccine. Mrs Brown stated that teachers would welcome vaccination - it would reduce anxiety as well as Covid.

Guidance on who qualifies as a key worker is quite strict but the school does have some flexibility over which pupils attend the hub.

The number of cases of Covid in the school catchment area has decreased from the levels pre-Christmas.

7. Fundraising

On hold due to Covid restrictions.

8. Blazer Sales Update

No change from last month.

9. Finance Update

Blazer account - £8026.45 with an invoice of £1215.50 outstanding and money due to come into the account from parentpay.

General account - £2249.80.

A decision on how much funds we can release to the school has been deferred to the March meeting.

10. Planning

Include a discussion on planning for the next school year in the March meeting. Action Rosemary Cameron

11. AOB

Anyone interested in the GTC meeting on 8th February please contact Laura Alexander.

The issue of the April ski trip was raised. Unfortunately we have to wait until nearer the time to see if it will go ahead. If cancelled there will be full refunds covered by the insurance as it was booked before Covid.

Date of next meeting: **Tuesday 2nd March**

No	Action	Actionee	Timescale
1	Send a representative from the PC to school assemblies.	Laura Alexander	On hold
2	Find a way to transfer blazer money from parentpay to the PC bank account.	Gemma Toon	02/03/21
3	Reschedule the Technologies Dept presentation to the April meeting.	Laura Alexander	02/03/21
4	Include a discussion on planning for the next school year in the March meeting.	Rosemary Cameron	02/03/21