



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

**Kinross High School Parent Council
Tuesday 3rd November 2020**

Attendance	Apologies
Laura Alexander (Chair) Rosemary Cameron (Clerk) Sarah Brown (Head Teacher) Claire Baxby (PT English and Literacy) Christina Smith Gemma Toon Heather Wilkins Nicola Carmichael Alison Conlon Sheena Mitchell Sheena Buchanan Corran Beban (Part-time)	Catriona Culley Karin Taylor Vicki Wilson

Minutes

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

The meeting was held via Zoom with Laura as host. Apologies were received as above.

2. Review of previous minutes and actions arising

The minutes for September were approved - proposed by Gemma Toon and seconded by Heather Wilkins.

Actions arising:

No	Action	Actionee	Status
1	Send a representative from the PC to school assemblies.	Laura Alexander	On hold
2	Planning for a 10k run - Laura to see if John could provide a crib sheet to help us.	Laura Alexander	Complete - John is unable to help with the run.
3	See if S5 and S6 could use lockers.	Sarah Brown	Complete - see below.
4	Provide Laura with a list of requirements for Music Technology equipment.	Paul Rosie	Continuing
5	Liaise with the school to get a blazer stock take done.	Gemma Toon	Complete
6	Invite English or Maths heads of faculty to November meeting plus Careers Advice teacher.	Laura Alexander	Complete

Action 3 - Sarah Brown investigated this but it is not possible for the lockers to be used for several reasons - overcrowding in the area, too many touch points and the S6 lockers are in an area being used as an emergency Covid quarantine classroom. Concern was expressed that senior pupils are being asked to carry too much around with them. It was suggested that pupils just have a single

folder containing their current work for each subject, which they carry round, and file older work at home where possible.

3. Presentation by Claire Baxby, PT of English and Literacy

There have been several staff changes since Mrs Baxby last spoke to the Parent Council two years ago.

The department has had to make changes due to Covid:

- Books can't be shared

- Shorter texts are being studied - poetry and short stories - but BGE will do a longer text after Christmas.

- Google classroom continues to be used with all homework on this platform.

SQA news:

- Nat 5 exams will not be held this academic year and so alternative certification will be used.

- Higher and Advanced Higher exam formats are unchanged however the writing folio will be reduced to one piece in both cases.

- Last year's results saw an increase of 5% in pupils getting A-C in Nat 5 and a 13% increase in A-C at Higher level.

- Advanced Higher had the largest ever class last year with 76% getting A or B.

S2 are being given choices via the literacy electives e.g. food in literature, graphic novels.

Study support has been expanded via the study success club, writing folio support and Easter study sessions.

There is a partnership with Loch Leven Community Library

- Family literacy events - looking to develop as part of P7-S1 transition

- S1 monthly library book talks

- S1/2 author visits

- S3 creative writing workshops

- Virtual creative writing

Introduction of Literacy Leaders:

- Book Week Assemblies

- Transition Activities

- KHS Big Book Swap

S6 Paired Reading Supporters - supporting S1 pupils with reading.

Literacy across learning:

- The focus is on writing skills

- 5-a-day correction code across the school

Reading Culture:

- This week I am reading ...

- First Minister's reading challenge

- Book week Scotland

- KHS book swap

Priorities looking forward:

- School recovery

- Adapting SQA arrangements

- Review of BGE courses

- Developing a reading culture

Mrs Baxby's presentation will be available on the Parent Council page of the school website when the minutes are uploaded.

4. Head Teacher's Report

The new timetable seems to be working well.

A new door for 6th years gets pupils in to the school faster in the morning.

There was a very successful Halloween dress-up day.

Parent's evenings will be virtual this year due to Covid, with the first one in the week beginning 9th November for S1. Four depts will be involved - English, Maths, Science and Modern Languages. It will be via Microsoft Teams. Hopefully this will then be rolled out to the other years.

The in-service days in November will focus on assessment and moderation.

The campus is now open for exercise classes and outdoor sports in the evenings and at

weekends.

SQA News:

There is a lot of work being done on the assessment for Nat 5 due to the suspension of exams.

Highers and Advanced Highers will run from 13 May to 4 June 2021. The SQA are due to produce the timetable very soon. Results will still be sent out on 10th August.

Guidance on conducting the exams is being developed and revised arrangements will be required for invigilation.

SQA will have a clear contingency plan in place if the exams are not able to go ahead.

There will be no exam leave for S4 in 2021.

Exam leave for S5/6 will be from 10th May.

The BGE timetable will change on the 17th May for S1-4 moving up.

S5 will start S6 classes on 7th June.

Prelims:

The school would prefer to have prelims but there are practical difficulties due to Covid. If groups of pupils or teachers have to self-isolate this will also cause problems. There will therefore not be a formal diet of prelims but exams will take place in class during the longer periods. A calendar is currently being put together to try and avoid clashes between departments, and to ensure that each subject has a prelim at the most appropriate time.

Details will be in the next Your Kinect and the calendar will be on the school website. It is hoped to start some National 5 class-based prelims in November, but the majority are likely to be after Christmas, particularly Higher and Advanced Higher. Reports to parents will be more rigorous.

PKC is currently in level 2 for Covid restrictions. Guidance has recently been strengthened on face coverings in schools, distancing and ventilation. Senior pupils are encouraged to socially distance where possible. Classrooms should not fall below 17degC and PKC are providing guidance on how to achieve this and still ventilate the rooms.

Some indoor PE can now take place unless PKC goes into level 4.

It is possible that the school could be closed even if the area is level 1 or 2 if there is a Covid outbreak. Virtual learning is the contingency plan should this happen but with some face-to-face learning each week. Closure will be decided by the council or the government.

5. Fundraising

10k run - John Mactaggart is unable to be involved in this and it may not be possible to stage it in April 2021. The possibility of doing a virtual run was discussed, as was the idea of simply asking parents to make donations via Parentpay due to the difficulty of doing fundraising activities at this time. The school still needs funds to replace the curriculum charges, otherwise the learning experience in certain subjects like Home Economics and Design and Manufacture will be diminished. It was agreed that it would be helpful to provide more information to parents so they can see what the funds are needed for.

6. Blazer Sales Update

The school office very kindly did the stock-take (20 blazers sold). An order needs to be put in by 20th October. 52 blazers will be ordered and one damaged one will be replaced free of charge.

There has been a 50p increase in price per blazer. The average cost per blazer is still around £30, meaning that the price we charge parents could be reduced or the extra could go to raise funds for the school, given that other fundraising activities have been curtailed due to Covid. A decision on this will be made in May, once we confirm what next year's prices are likely to be given Brexit etc. The total order cost is £1215.50.

7. Finance Update

Blazer account - £8024.43

General account - £1761.68

The general account has payments to the clerk for the September and November meetings pending.

The auditor has approved the accounts which have now been sent to PKC.

8. Planning

Action Laura Alexander to invite the local councillors to the January meeting.

9. AOB

The issue of certain items of food not being available at lunchtimes was raised. Sarah Brown said that there have been some issues however there is always something else available on the day. It was suggested that pupils should be reminded that they should speak to catering staff if they have ended up with no food.

The clerk raised the issue of an unknown administrator disallowing posts on the facebook group. Admins can still post and group members can reply to admin posts. It was felt that, although the reasons for this move and who did it are unknown, it was probably best to keep posting restricted to admins only. There does not seem to be any need for members to post and it avoids spam posts.

Date of next meeting: **Tuesday 8th December**

No	Action	Actionee	Timescale
1	Send a representative from the PC to school assemblies.	Laura Alexander	On hold
2	Provide Laura with a list of requirements for Music Technology equipment.	Paul Rosie	08/12/20
3	Invite local councillors to the January meeting.	Laura Alexander	08/12/20