

Bannerman High School Parent Council

Tuesday 11th February 2025

In attendance

Seonaidh Black (Head Teacher)
Kirsty Black (Chair)
Lorna Chatham
Tara Rasheed
Lynne McNulty

Fiona Kerr (Head of S5)
Ruth Matheson (Treasurer)
Louise Cara
Jess Candulu
Michelle Barr

1. Welcome
2. School Update (SB/FK):
 - Staffing: some issues experienced across various departments and shortage of supply teachers means that Senior phase pupils have to be prioritised. The majority of other phases are covered but not always by specialists. Maths teachers appear to be very difficult to fill.
 - Prelim results: S4 have performed well, with their focus now on the various pieces of folio work that need to be submitted before Easter.
 - S5/S6 have had more mixed results. The library will now be open for an hour after school, FK and another teacher are facilitating this.
 - BGE: busy time in S1-S3: S3's are undergoing Buddy training for the P7 transition visits.
 - Enhanced transitions are underway and funding has been secured for an Enhanced Transition away day.
 - Various Duke of Edinburgh activities are ongoing
 - STEM – Miss Pettigrew back and resumed STEM
 - Mr Hannah (Maths) has been chosen as a STEM Leader and will be delivering content in association with the Royal College of Engineers
 - Art will be joining the Technology faculty meaning STEAM rather than STEM (this is common in many schools now)
 - IDL (Inter-disciplinary Learning) is starting in Global Studies and also in Media in Drama. Media & Drama will culminate in a Film Festival to be held in the GFT.
 - 27th February – Musical Theatre Showcase
 - 6th March – Book Festival
 - Student Leadership programme: 9 Captains have been appointed with the aim of trying to change the culture of student leadership within the school, filling the gap left with the removal of Houses. The Scottish Government's Self evaluation tool is being used to baseline these for next year. Areas chosen are include: Anti-racism, Anti-bullying, Rights of the Child, Equalities, Relationships
 - Improvement Plan: main focuses are Learning & Teaching and Better Engagement/attendance. This is in decline and is continuing to fall.
 - School website. SB is working on this in the background

ACTION: KB to email over copies of the Parent Council policies to be uploaded to the Parent Council Area of the website.

ACTION: MB to take notes of future meetings to be uploaded to the Parent Council Area of the website.

ACTION: FK & MB to collate a Parent's edition of the Relationships Policy.

3. Achieve study aid: MB highlighted what a useful resource this was making studying easier and less daunting. It gives a joined up approach from online content, videos through to past paper. SB confirmed that this as a great investment and was hopeful that this would continue in the future. Useful from S3 upwards but especially for exams, most subjects are covered except Drama and Maths Apps.
4. S4/S2 subject choices. Currently in S4 are having a trial run at this to check if there are any clashes that could be prevented. S2 choices will be later in the school year.
5. Parent's Nights: feedback was shared on the recent change of format to everyone in the Games Hall instead of being held in the individual departments. On the whole this was well received with only a few complaints about noise levels. There were some glitches with the booking system but it is hopeful that these will not recur.
6. Strike dates: potentially Thursday 20th February. It would be unsafe to open the school as the EIS is the biggest union at Bannerman. This decision will be taken centrally, not by SB
7. Bleed control kit: a few members suggested that Parent Council funds could be used to buy these for the school

ACTION: RM to circulate details and prices of Bleed control kits to the PC.

Date of next meetings:

Tuesday 25th March AGM

Tuesday 6th May