

## Armadale Academy Parent Council Meeting

<b>Date:</b> 29.11.23	<b>Present:</b> Lorena Mombelli, Louise Carson, , Adele Matheson, Helen Thomson, Michelle Blackley, Kirsty Gibson, Nicola Barker Harrison; Nigel Martin Law; Claire Anderson; Emma Reid.
<b>Minute:</b> A.Matheson	<b>Apologies:</b> Arlene White, Vicki Mackay

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
New Secretary	Adele Matheson – nominated and voted in as New PP secretary.	
Head Teacher's Update	<p><b>Looking Back</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cluster INSET Day – review of formative assessment with teachers across the cluster schools group. Day was well received with a lot of ideas generated on how to work together and improve the interactions and transitions of pupils through all stages of their learning.</li> <li>• P7 ½ Day Visits and Information Evening; change to the planned transition day format for the upcoming S1 Class with ½ day scavenger hunt (for orientation) and 2 full days of classroom based work.</li> <li>• English Faculty Curricular Area Review</li> <li>• 'Your Future' (DYW and Course Choice) Evening was well attended by parents, students, and representatives of local employers, Unis and colleges. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Suggestion was made that ongoing it might be worthwhile to also include some charity organisations to the mix as this is a career path that may not be considered.</li> <li>○ General support – it would also be good to advocate that it's ok to not know what you want to do – and that very few career option are specialised. In most cases a broad scope of education can be a very valuable approach.</li> <li>○ Modern apprentices – would be beneficial to see representation for the more vocational orientated pupils.</li> <li>○ (it was noted that in some instances – targeted work experience could and has been arranged, however this is not viable as an option across the board.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• S1 and S3 Parents' Evenings – online will be garnering feedback on thought of how (online and in person) parents evenings have been received.</li> </ul>	<p>Notes:</p> <p>Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) aims to prepare learners for their future pathways and the transition into the world of work. It builds on the foundations already in place through Curriculum for Excellence and is relevant from early years to senior phase and beyond.</p>
Head Teacher's Update	<p><b>Upcoming events:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prelims – National 5's start 4<sup>th</sup> Dec. and Highers start 10<sup>th</sup> Jan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Note – prelims have been planned with lunch and the end of the school day considered. There will be sufficient time at the end of an exam to allow pupils to access the school busses, additionally they will be released from classes early to allow</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<p>time for lunch should an exam run over / close to the lunch break.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Any pupil or parent with a concern regarding the timing of exams should contact the school.</li> <li>● S2 Parents' Evening 7<sup>th</sup> December – online</li> <li>● S4 Parent's Evening 24<sup>th</sup> January– in person</li> <li>● S5/6 Parents' Evening 6<sup>th</sup> February– in person <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Senior parents evening are in person to allow for extra discussion time with the teachers in the important exam years.</li> <li>○ Attendance to (online) parents evening is decreased compared to pre pandemic levels. Investigations into the lack of engagement and what can be done to increase this are ongoing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Strictly Dale – end of term</li> <li>● Christmas– break up Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, back Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January</li> <li>● February Holiday – break up Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February, back Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February. (Monday 19<sup>th</sup> is an INSET Day)</li> </ul>	
<p>Head Teacher's Update</p>	<p><b>Staffing:</b>  Appointments/New Starts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● PTC Social Subjects and Business Education – Rory Dinwoodie's last day is Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Ashley McQuade will start on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December. Thank you to Mr Dinwoodie.</li> </ul> <p>Maternity Leave.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Family Link Worker – Rebekah Scott starts mat leave at Christmas, Nicola Wright will start in December. Good luck to Ms Scott.</li> </ul> <p>Scheduled Interviews/Posts to be advertised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2 x PSW roles to be re-advertised.</li> </ul>	
<p>Head Teacher's Update</p>	<p><b>Other:</b>  School Improvement Plan 2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Making good progress on key aspects – Curriculum Review, Positive Relationships Review and ongoing focus on Learning, Teacher and Assessment (including cluster focus on formative assessment). Attendance remains a priority.</li> <li>● Eastertoun Primary School. Info has been shared with all students and parents/carers. All on track for January start.</li> </ul>	
<p>Depute Head Teacher's Update.  Emma Reid</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 5 year plan curriculum plan was set out in 2019; however given the changes suggested by the Hayward Review, the next review has been brought forward.</li> </ul> <p>Cluster QI findings :</p> <p>Educators from Primary and secondary were all together to collectively review the totality of the transition experience and curriculum; they were in alignment re the self-review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increased pace and challenge in the BGE.</li> </ul>	<p>Notes:</p> <p><b>BGE</b> - The Broad General Education is the phase of learning which lasts from when a child begins early learning and childcare through to the end of S3 in secondary school before moving on to the senior phase of</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater cluster collaboration would be beneficial to ensure transitions are more cohesive. Increased visits by AA teachers to cluster schools for lessons was felt would aid the pace at which the children can progress at high school.</li> <li>• S4 pupils commented that they would like S3 exams in key subjects to better prepare them for prelims / SQA.</li> <li>• Cluster primaries were positive in regards to the culture, ethos , direction and commitment from the staff to deliver high quality L&amp;T.</li> <li>• Students and cluster schools were very positive re the support offered during the course choice process, and observed a good range of activities in the lessons they saw.</li> <li>• S3 to S4 pupils felt more confident with the subjects they had chosen to progress (rather than the new ones selected); staff would be looking to re-enforce this at selection time.</li> </ul>	the curriculum in S4 to S6.
Depute Head Teacher's Next Steps	<p>Curriculum review – surveys have been sent out and findings collated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review underway of the higher levels curriculum map. (started last Thursday).</li> <li>• Changes to S1 for PSE and Spanish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In order to build relationship between HOH and pupils, there will be a reduction in the My skills lessons (by one period per week) and during this period the HOH will teach PSE. It is hoped that this will help foster relationship building prior to S3 when traditionally the pupils would start to have more contact with their HOH.</li> <li>○ Spanish – will be now taught to S1 (1 period per week) with French being reduced to 2 periods (from 3).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Timetable review for 24/25 session currently underway. Looking at the loading, capacity and budgetary requirements etc.</li> <li>• Looking to relaunch the skills framework (TBC)</li> <li>• Concern raised regarding the lack of year rounds classes in computer science. Currently this is split into rotation with Drama and Home Economics. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Owing to the lack of staff available to teach this as a dedicated class to S1 it has been split into a block with other subjects with a similar constraint. It was noted that whilst not ideal, this was an increase in what had been offered in previous years.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Family Champion	Update pending	
Senior Phase	<p>Parents evening for senior phase will be done in person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S4 and S5/6 parents evenings will be in separate evenings.</li> <li>• This will allow more time: 5 mins per pupil for higher students is not enough time to review the scope of the discussion needed re prelims/ targets and next steps.</li> <li>• More time can also be allocated to review any physical work (i.e. photography etc).</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance to parents evening has dipped since covid. Options are currently being considered re how this can be increased. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Would a creche on the evening be useful?</li> <li>○ Looking to have more events to build up parental engagement. Any ideas or things that have worked previously or general feedback would be appreciated.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Holidays	<p>Council draft proposal for Holidays in session 25/26 has been supplied.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Later Oct break was well received, as was the early Christmas finish.</li> <li>• Concern was raised re the September weekend holiday falling over two weeks (Fri 19<sup>th</sup> and Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>. The general feeling was that this could potentially affect attendance in both weeks with parents removing children from either week – thereby causing increased disruption for a longer period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Preference would be to have both days holiday in the same week.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Action – LM to provide this feedback to the council.
AOB	<p>Parent Parliament Constitution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of the aims and meeting format to be undertaken at the next session.</li> </ul>	AM / LM to ensure this is added to the Feb. agenda.
Next Meeting	<p>Next Parent Council – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request for agenda items to be send out 2 weeks in advance of the next meeting.</li> <li>• Agenda to be sent out 1 week in advance of the next meeting.</li> </ul>	Action AM / LM