

Armadale Academy

Parent Council Meeting

Date: 08.05.24	Present: Darron McCormick, Lorena Mombelli, Louise Carson, , Adele Matheson, Michelle Blackley, Kirsty Gibson, Nicola Barker Harrison, Nigel Martin Law, Lynsey Harris, Morag Park
Minute: A.Matheson	Apologies: Helen Thomson Vicki MacKay (leaving PP) Jacqui McCormick

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Chair Person's Report	<p>Year Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This year has seen new attended to the Parents Council (PC); with a number of the council now consisting of parents/ carers from the younger years. It's very positive to see the engagement of the new parents / carers.• Congratulations to Mrs Barker-Harrison for the first year in her position as HT; we (the PC) would like to congratulate her on her work in ensuring the transition has been smooth and that all changes have been managed well.• Easterton PS – this has gone better than hoped with the pupils and younger children settling well, they have all adjusted to each other's presence and have accommodated the adjustments to space and movement equability.• Parents evenings – this year saw the return of F2F parents evenings, post covid, for the upper years. The was appreciated as it was felt that this allowed for more engaged discussions regarding the pupils progress and needs.• New appointment – Head of Well being Champion : Lynsey Harris<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Going forward Lynsey will attend the Local meetings and will report back to the Council.• Head Teacher Recruitment – Training. This is offered annually and is important in the HTR process; it is vital that this training is kept up to date – and we will be looking to train a representative at the next round of training sessions.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you – we the Council would like to offer our thanks to Vicki MacKay and Nigel Martin Law who leave the council this year with 9 and 8 years as member of the council under their belts respectively. Thank you both for all your work over these many years. • Armadale Academy Website has a section for the PC (the meeting minutes are located here), we are seeking ideas to promote the council and are able to utilise this space. Please can you forward any ideas for this to the council (aa.parentsparliament@gmail.com). • BGE Open Evening – hoping to have this in Sept. 24. Aim is to have a stand to promote the council. The format for this is TBC. • P7 transition starts in a few weeks – we offer a warm welcome to the new students and hope they have great time settling into their new environment. • SQA Exams are underway – good luck to all students! • Study Support – we would like to offer our thanks for ensuring there was time and money budgeted to allow the Easter and after-school study sessions, especially for the core subjects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thank you for all the help and support offered by the teachers to help the students at these sessions. ○ Thanks in particular for the Match support and tutoring offered. • This year has seen a lot of fun engagement with the staff and pupils: Christmas Concert, Strictly Armadale, dress down days, Theatre trip as well as the upcoming S6 Prom and school trips. Thank you for all of these- this is very much appreciated by the parents/ carers and the Pupils. 	<p>BGE - 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 the curriculum in S4 to S6.</p>
Treasurers Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no movement on spend – as there have been co fund raising activities undertaken this year. • There is an issue with accessing the account as the signatories have changed. – need to explore what the options are available to resolve this. 	<p>Review signatories and resolution on accounts set up in the next academic year.</p>
Election of Office Bearers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current bearers of office resigned their positions, nominations were put forward and approvals to the positions are noted as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair - Lorena Mombelli ○ Vice Chair - Darron McCormick ○ Treasurer – Lorraine Valley ○ `Secretary – Adele Matheson 	

<p>Head Teacher's Update</p>	<p>Looking Back</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● P7 Enterprise Day – Thursday 21st March <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This was a new fixture this year – a team building exercises for the new students. Pupils in mixed groups (all from different schools) were assigned tasks to work on together. ○ They also had a chance to meet and get to know their 3rd year buddies who will be there to help with them with their transition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Huge thanks to the S3 buddies who were a fantastic support in this process. ● SQA Exams start – Monday 22nd April <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ These are going well; students have been very accommodating with adapting to the room changes these have had, and behaviour throughout has been good. ● Positive Relationships Policy – rollout of phase two, ‘Merits and De-merits’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students are responding positively to the pilot of the new system. There is a review planned to look at what the rewards for this should be. This will be rolled out when details have been ironed out. ● INSET Day –Tuesday 7th May <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Joined by a number of partners. Focus on SEV (Self Evaluation) and Improvement planning for next session – at an individual, departmental and whole school level. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Next year there is a consideration to including the parents voices in these forward planning sessions. 	
<p>Head Teacher's Update</p>	<p>Looking Forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parents Evenings: following consultations for the next year S1-3 evenings will be held online and S4-6 in person (these will be undertaken in the Assembly Hall rather than classrooms). ● Online consultations: there were concerns raise over the availability of slots, especially for core subjects. Will look to issue some guidance re how appointments can be best selected. If there are no slots available , and there are concerns , then you can reach out to Student Support for some help. <p>Upcoming events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Victoria Day Holiday – Monday 20th May ● Change of Timetable – Monday 3rd June <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Timetables will be available, an can be collected from the 30th May 	

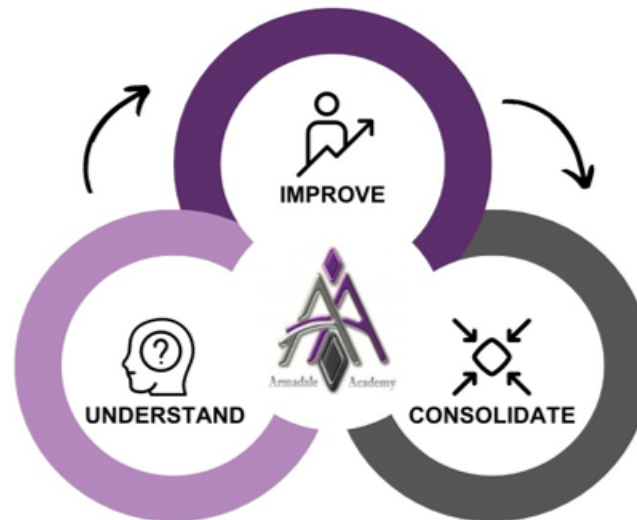
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S6 Leavers' Graduation – Friday 7th June <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Events planned include Prom, BBQ , Rounders , Staff Vs S6 wheelchair basketball. ○ Activities day planned for the end of term – Fun day with lots of planned; details TBC soon. • P7 Visits – 19th – 21st June • Olympic IDL day – Friday 31st May <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Details on format to follow – lots of engagement across departments. • VSE Session Planned 28th – 30th October to review the Improvement journey. • Ceilidh to be planned at Armadale Community Centre – date TBC 	<p>Validated self-evaluation (VSE) is a collaborative, evaluative process. It aims to improve the quality of provision and outcomes for learners by providing support and challenge to the work of community learning and development</p>
<p>Head Teacher's Update</p>	<p>Staffing</p> <p>Appointments/New Starts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retaining: Lorna Phillips (Physics), Salome Guillon (French), Hannah Leonard (PE), Jay Easton (Art & Design), Nicole Farrell (was Paterson) (RMPS/Inclusion Hub). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dick Orr will be phasing out to retirement and his hours will reduce accordingly till his retirement date. • Probationers: Art, PE and Modern Studies (details tbc) • NOTE: Maths – still have 2 teacher absences , Hope to have this back up to full compliment going into net year. Huge thanks to the Maths department, and others for stepping up to cover classes. <p>Leavers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ross Gibson (Teacher of Wellbeing – Wood House) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Note -the football academy will continue in Mr Gibson's absence • Jen King (Chemistry) <p>Returns from Maternity Leave</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karyn Reilly – English <p>Maternity Leave</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lindsay Gardner (Art & Design) – from 10/06/24 	

	<p>Scheduled Interviews/Posts to be advertised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 day PTC Support for Learning (Friday) 	
<p>Head Teacher's Update</p>	<p>Other: Easterton Primary School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Inspection went well. Thanks for the help and Support from AA staff. <p>Malawi June 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan in is early stages to allow for 20 students to visit Malawi in 2025. Ther will be a lot of fundraising efforts to aid in the costs of this visit. It s hoped that this is a programme that when running will involve a trip every 3 years. In the run up to this there will be a number of workshops ran on to introduce the culture of Malawi to the students. <p>School Improvement Plan 2023-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to make good progress on key aspects – Positive Relationships Policy Review, Learning, Teacher and Assessment and Attendance remains a priority. • Thank you to everyone who complete the consultation to provide ideas. Please see draft. Opportunity to vote/comment will be provided soon. • New plan is based on a 3-5 year cycle. This will allow time for new practices to be embedded properly / more fully. • More opportunities for S6 pupils to develop their skills in a community based centres, through volunteering and work experience. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Any ideas or options where this could be – please let us know. ○ Looking to have this work around the S6 timetable (which tend to have less classes). ○ List of what will be available will be reviewed for the start of the next academic year. • Targeted Attendance – looking at how to engage with groups of pupils who statistically have shown to have low attendance. • Summary of Proposed Improvement Priorities 2024-25 (see slide at the end of the minutes). 	

Summary of Proposed Improvement Priorities 2024-25

- S6 Experience/Improving Community Links
- Developing Targeted Attendance Interventions – including Gender Gap and other identified issues
- Profiling/Learner Conversations
- Improving Positive Destinations (Post School)
- Wider Achievement/Extra-Curricular - including links to school values

- Building Thinking Classrooms
- Family Engagement & Learning
- Literacy - Gender Gap



- Embed Positive Relationships Policy
- Learning, Teaching & Assessment - including Inclusive Pedagogy, Formative Assessment & CLPL
- Health and Wellbeing Vision & Strategy
- Improving Attendance & Reducing Exclusions
- Curriculum Development – including BGE (pace & challenge), MSMW & Skills
- Raising Attainment Strategy – including most at risk, using data & links to Wider Achievement