

Armadale Academy **Parent Council Meeting**

Date: 05.03.25	Present:
Minute: A.Matheson	Apologies:

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Head Teacher's Update	<p>Looking Back</p> <p>Prelims: N5's – December 24; Highers Jan 25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All allowances put in place to aid pupil flow and keep areas quiet well received and adhered to. • Discussion on the timing of the Higher prelims – would it be better to have these in December also? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Would give students a break over the holidays – and aid with stress levels. ○ Earlier would allow extra time to work on any gaps or areas to improve. ○ Easter holiday has full revision schedules and student are required to work through this – earlier exams could allow them to have at least a bit of time to recharge. ○ Could also look to pull forward the parents' night – and allow for more time to address areas of concern or improvements. ○ Would require agreements from all staff and a reallocation or reprioritisation of tasks to allow the marking etc to be completed in a timely manner. <p>Christmas Concert: Wednesday 11th December Strictly Dale: Thursday 19th December</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both events were well received, and fun had by all; thanks to all participants for all the work and effort the put in to pulling these events off. <p>INSET Day 3: Monday 17th February.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed the cost of the School Day and Care Experienced Input and Faculty time on Raising Attainment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where is it possible to reduce costs and ensure not extra costs for day-to-day activities. • Trips – use the school minibus / access free locations where possible. • Dress down days – reduce the number of these (this is not just about the money for dressing down – but the cost of the clothing too). 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being mindful of the causes of hidden poverty and taking steps to address these (uniforms, P7 starter kit, study packs etc.). 	
Head Teacher's Update	<p>Looking Forward:</p> <p>S6 Last Day celebrations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday 4th April (Football Match). • Thursday 24th April (Wheelchair Basketball) • Friday 6th June (Graduation and BBQ) <p>SQA Study Leave and Exams starts Friday 25th April.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easter schedule – immersion study dates will run throughout the holidays. • Pupils will be issues a SQA support guide (with links to helpful sites and expectations. • Headstrong will be on site to offer support. • QR codes will be available to access the links. <p>INSET Day 4: Tuesday 6th May. Parent Parliament AGM: Wednesday 7th May</p>	
Head Teacher's Update	<p>Staffing</p> <p>Appointments/New Starts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Interviews completed for the DHT position; an offer to the successful candidate is now underway. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Twenty-five initial applicants, 8 shortlisted; final interview with 3 candidates ○ Appointee tba when they accept the offer. ○ Thanks to PP and students for their participation in the interview / selection process. • No new starts. • Maternity Leave <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Heather Shearer will start in May/June 2025 • Scheduled Interviews/Posts to be advertised. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PTC Creative, Aesthetic and Technology – Yvonne Egan is retiring. ○ Currently working on staffing for next session – a number of probationers and fixed terms have been requested to meet the needs of timetable and changes to staffing, awaiting confirmation. Music, English, HE, Geography, Modern Studies and PE all requested. 	

<p>Head Teacher's Update</p>	<p>Other:</p> <p>Learning, Teaching and Assessment – Working through VSE feedback, will form much of 2025-26 Improvement Plan</p> <p>Vision and Values – update, thanks and discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision and Values – reason for a review was feedback was the existing vision and values was unclear and hard to remember. The student voices group came up with a new concept to memorise the values: REACH (Respect, Equity, Ambition, Community and a new value of Health) and the original mission statement 'Learning Together, Achieving Together' will become the new vision. This will be rolled out in the upcoming months. • Attainment – Main focus now. <p>Parents & Carers Evenings – feedback and changes being looked at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request that timings for online booking be reviewed – increase to 7 mins for S1 -4, 10 for S5/6 • Feedback from parents requested – what's working and what's not. What improvements could be made? • Onsite appointments – should students attend the meetings; feeling was that this aided and helped shape the discussions to be more worthwhile. <p>Ethos survey – request this this is completed by all parents and carers as it provides valuable information on how things are going and what we could improve.</p>	
<p>AOB</p>	<p>Health & Wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 was to review of the work currently underway; work is underway / ongoing on the best ways to promote and teach the students about wellbeing. • Cumulative review by teaching staff and outside partners to look as to how best support pupils. • Phase 2 – proposal for new ways of working and roll out is in draft form. • Expect this to be finalised and agreed over the coming months. <p>Homework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expectation is 15% to be undertaken at school and 85% at home • S4 -6 have the heaviest workloads; up till then this slowly ramps up during S1-3 • Whilst homework is not enforceable – it should be stresses that in S4-6 all assignments, portfolios practical works etc. should be completed in order to help prepare for exams and reviews. • Draft framework for new approach to homework to be issued. <p>Italy trip</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 48 spaces and 172 applicants; prioritisation given to older pupils / higher years.• In future will review how trips are advertised and what criterial for selection will be to save disappointment from heavily oversubscribed trips. Toilets <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reports from pupils of broken locks, flushes not working, broken toilet roll holders etc.• General feedback is the condition of these are very poor.	
Next Meeting	Dates for 2024 – 25 meetings (*6:30 start for Parents – with HT / Teacher attendance from 7pm) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wed 7th May.	