

Armadale Academy **Parent Council Meeting**

Date: 28.08.25	Present:
Minute: A.Matheson	Apologies: None

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
School Captains	<p>We were joined by 2 (of the 10) new S6 School Captains LP & FG.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They gave a brief overview of their remit over the coming year, stating they had a focus on creating legacies that are aligned to the updated Values. • Each Captain has selected a goal that aligns to one of the school values (Respect, Equity, Ambition, Community, Health). Three of the goals set: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish a mentorship programme whereby S5/6 students will aid younger students through their transition to the senior levels, providing help with study guidance, advice and offering broad support. ○ Bring back House competitions – to motivate and challenge each other. ○ To set up year heads for all year groups; establish a forum where there is representation from all year groups ensuring the voices of the younger years are not overlooked. 	
PVG Changes	<p>Following the implementation of the Disclosure Act - all regular members of the Parents Council (i.e. anyone who attends more than one meeting) is legally required to be a member of the PVG scheme for children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LM (Chair) has agreed to be the Signatory to get the process underway first then roll out. • Each attendee will have to complete the registration form and provide 2 forms of ID (one photo, one to verify address) • LM will send out an email to all attendees detailing the process, what's required and the submission deadline. • The next PC meeting is scheduled for 26th Nov, this may need to be cancelled or pushed back if PVG status has not been awarded by this date. 	
Parent Queries	Query received regarding attainment levels - Is there a way to see the achievement levels of subjects at AA Vs other local schools?	

(non-attending)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is not possible to supply easily; the integers provided by the school are a comparator to the school's digital counterpart (the Virtual Comparator). This is the most accurate representation of the achievement level Vs standard that can be supplied. • Owing to the myriads of variations presented by different schools comparing one to another is not like for like – and therefore not an accurate comparison. 	
Head Teacher's Update	<p>Looking Back:</p> <p>Malawi Trip:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff and pupils had an amazing experience; it was tough emotionally at times but an incredibly worthwhile experience for all involved. • Students painted murals, blackboards, learned local songs and dances, they played sports with the other pupils, made friends for life and took part in lessons. • At the end of their time with the school, they went on a safari. • Overall, it was a fantastic learning and development experience. • The intention is to run the same programme again in 3 years' time. <p>Start of term: including new S1 cohort</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everything has started well and the new intake of S1 are setting in well. • There were 2 Inset days for the teachers – this was well received and allowed for a good foundation to start the new academic year. <p>'Learning Together, Achieving Together' collegiate time: 25th August – looked at the Cluster Assessment Strategy and how this could be applied and adapted to work for diverse subject areas.</p>	
Head Teacher's Update	<p>Looking Forward:</p> <p>Senior Phase Awards Ceremony: Thursday 4th September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slight concern with the potential numbers of students and parents. • There are +200 students alone should everyone attend. • Logistics will be reviewed in advance and extra seating brought in where possible. • Please be aware that this will be a busy evening. <p>BGE Awards Ceremony: Tuesday 9th September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils who are receiving an award / nomination will be notified in advance. <p>Literacy and Numeracy Evening: Tuesday 16th September (17:30-19:00)</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An email about the evening will be sent - please confirm your attendance in advance. <p>Upcoming holidays / Training days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> September Weekend: Friday 19th – Monday 22nd (inclusive) October Holiday: Monday 20th – Friday 24th October INSET 2: Monday 27th October. <p>Transition – dates for 2026 / 27 P7's & Open evenings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> P7 Information Evening/ S1-S3 Open Evening: 15th October P7 Half Day visits: Every Friday from 31st October – 28th November <p>'Learning Together, Achieving Together': Tuesday 28th October.</p> <p>Parents Evenings: Senior Level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S4– Monday 3rd November (in person) S5/6 – Tuesday 11th November (in person) <p>REACH for Your Future' Evening: Monday 24th November</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local colleges, Uni's and employers will all be represented. Anyone is welcome to attend (not just the senior level students and parents). Pupils and parents can speak to representatives about course choices and the selection available. <p>Recruitment Fair – School Clubs and extracurricular activities: Tuesday 2nd September.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representatives will be available to discuss the club or group particulars and all pupils given the opportunity to see what's available and to encouraged to sign up and become involved. 	
Head Teacher's Update	<p>Staffing</p> <p>Appointments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointments: 3 x PT Wellbeing and Raising Attainment (temp) – Charlotte Thomson (Cochran), Rebecca Smith (Honeyman), Rachel Rafferty (Wood) New Starts: Kerri Wilson (PTC Creative, Aesthetic and Technologies), Hannah Arthur (English) Rebecca McDougall (English) and still to start James Leonard (English) Probationers: Georgina Borthwick (Home Economics), Imogen Farnsworth (French) and Naomi McGillivray (Music) <p>Leavers:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catherine Hunter (English) <p>Maternity Leave</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jemma Lapsley (Music) <p>Scheduled Interviews/Posts to be advertised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
Head Teacher's Update	<p>School Improvement Plan 2025-26</p> <p>Standards and Qualities Report</p> <p>Pupil Equity Fund Plan</p> <p>These final documents were shared 25/08/25 – email with link to the file sent 25/8, this is also on the website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All priorities are aligned with our newly refreshed Vision, Values and REACH for Support/Success and the Future strategies. • Thanks to everyone for their input during the consultation process. • Collating all the information in the one location and aligned to the values should make it easier to access / find whatever piece of information anyone is looking for. • Key priorities and the focus for 2025/26 session are summarised and highlighted. • Any queries on this can be directed to the school, via a call or email. 	
Head Teacher's Update.	<p>Exam Results – August 2025 (for session 2024-25)</p> <p>Strong performance in SCQF attainment by the end of S4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 94% achieved 5+ SCQF Level 3 (3% increase on 2023-24) • 86% achieved 5+ SCQF Level 4 (equal to 2023-24) • 76% achieved 5+ SCQF Level 5 (9% increase on 2023-24) <p>Strong performance in SCQF attainment by the end of S5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 87% achieved 1+ SCQF Level 6 (6% increase on 2023-24) • 66% achieved 3+ SCQF Level 6 (5% increase on 2023-24) • 55% achieved 5+ SCQF Level 6 (5% increase 2023-24) <p>Slight improvement in SCQF Level 7 attainment by the end of S6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% achieved 1+ SCQF Level 7 (1% increase on 2023-24) <p>Strong performance in SQA attainment by the end of S4:**</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 91% achieved 5+ SQA Level 3 (6% increase on 2023-24) 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 82% achieved 5+ SQA Level 4 (5% increase on 2023-24) • 43% achieved 5+ SQA Level 5 (8% increase on 2023-24) <p>Improved performance in SQA attainment by the end of S5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 52% achieved 1+ SQA Level 6 (1% increase on 2023-24) • 30% achieved 3+ SQA Level 6 (equal to 2023-24) • 13% achieved 5+ SQA Level 6 (3% increase on 2023-24) <p>Slight decline in SQA Level 7 attainment by the end of S6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12% achieved 1+ SQA Level 7 (1% decrease on 2023-24) <p>** the significant improvement noted in S4 reflects the hard work and focus of the pupils and staff, and the change in approach to S3 learning to aid the transition to S4 and the first exams.</p> <p>S3 is now more of a hybrid year where the pupils are exposed to relevant parts of the S4 curriculum and exam questions are set to allow exposure to what the expectations will be the following year. This foundation will hopefully follow through to superior results overall in the upcoming years.</p> <p>A more challenging year in S3 will hopefully ensure pupils are prepared for the move to Senior level and the added workload and expectations. This is especially relevant in maths where Maths anxiety is quite common; Pupils need experience and successes in early years to avoid negative emotional reactions to mathematics that can hinder performance and engagement.</p> <p>NOTE: Maths anxiety is a prevalent issue in high school that can significantly affect students' academic performance and attitudes towards mathematics. By understanding its causes and implementing supportive strategies, educators can help students build confidence and improve their relationship with math, ultimately leading to better outcomes in their education and beyond.</p>	
Head Teacher's Update.	<p>Positive Stories to end on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six students achieved seven straight A's in their National 5 results. • Five students achieved five straight A's in their Higher results. • 3 x S3 Students achieved A's in a National 5 • 1 x S4 student achieved an A in a Higher 	
Deputy Head Teacher:	<p>School Dress code</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to uniform policy – with a stringent adherence to all tops bearing the branded school logo / shirt & tie have proven to be successful so far with a far higher compliance to uniform standards than what was noted previously. 	

Support Update.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes have been introduced to ensure safety and recognition of students, and in line with Scottish Government policy around equity, sustainability, cost and comfort • School colours / badges are essential so that pupils are easily identifiable as AA pupils. • Hoodies are still on the banned list and must not be worn. <p>CIA (Collaborative Improvement Action)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dates for next session Mon 24th & Tues 26th Nov. Would be good to have attendance from PC members interested in the process. 	
Deputy Head Teacher: Learning and Teaching Update	<p>School Report Cards – there have been minor tweaks to the language used; updates to the terminology on how progress is reported and measured have been made. This is to aid clarity and is in response to feedback on reports from previous years.</p> <p>Homework – the new framework / format has now been agreed. Details will be sent out soon.</p> <p>Mobile Phones.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trial process had all phones being kept in pupils' bags or locked pouches at all times unless there was a directive from the teacher for their use in a particular lesson. • Trial went well and pupils adhered to this, and the plan was to roll this out to all areas from the start of the new term. • However, the cyber-attack at the end of the last session proved that the use of phones in class could be beneficial especially when there was no access to school laptops or other such resources. • A lack of one clear approach is causing confusion with expectation differing by location and teacher. • A unilateral approach is required - one that is agreed on by all parties. Whilst collectively it was agreed that mobiles can be a useful tool, rules on their use need to be set up. 	
Deputy Head Teacher: Curriculum Update	<p>Curriculum Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All year's curriculums are under review this year. • Special focus on S3 and how this can be improved to aid the transition to S4 and all the increased expectations. <p>Timetables for 2025 -26 academic year; choices were restricted owing to staff availability, limited budget and limited teaching staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of a column structure for selection of choices was strategic and designed to ensure the best availability and spread of classes to select from. <p>My Skills My World</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classes reduced to 2 periods per week, but PSE is separated out from this allowing for a more rigorous approach in the lessons. • S1 plans have been reviewed and updated; S2 will be next for review & update. • Aim is to update all the MSMW options to ensure there are pathways for everyone within the school. 	
AOB		
Next Meeting	<p>Dates for 2025 – 26 meetings (*6:30 start for Parents – with HT / Teacher attendance from 7pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wed 26th Nov. • Tues 24th Feb. • Mon 11th May. 	