



Meeting:	Breadalbane Academy Parent Council (BAPC)	
Date & Time:	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2021, 6:30pm	
Location:	Virtual meeting hosted on Zoom platform	
Attendance:	J.Devine (JD), K.Gatehouse, L.Librieri, V. Marshall, R.Munro J. O'Flynn (Chair), A.Pointer (Vice-Chair), T.Pringle (Treasurer), Eleanor Laurie Cllr J.Duff	<b>Action</b>
Apologies:	Cllr X McDade, K Wright	
	<p><u>Useful contact details:</u></p> <p>Depute Headteacher: <a href="mailto:KAGatehouse@pkc.gov.uk">KAGatehouse@pkc.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Guidance: <a href="mailto:HLDAvidson@pkc.gov.uk">HLDAvidson@pkc.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Guidance: <a href="mailto:AGlover@pkc.gov.uk">AGlover@pkc.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Parent Council: <a href="mailto:chairperson@breadalbaneparents.com">chairperson@breadalbaneparents.com</a></p> <p>J. O'Flynn as Chair welcomed the room and thanked all for coming.</p> <p>Previous Minutes were taken as read and approved. They are available on the Breadalbane parents' website (breadalbaneparents.com).</p> <p><b><u>Parent Council Primary School 6.30 – 7.30pm</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Staffing Update (JD)</u></b></p> <p><u>Nursery</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Lauren Webster</u>: Senior Early Childhood Practitioner (ECP) replaces valued member of staff, Caroline Portillo</li> <li>- <u>Katie Hobson</u>: Play assistant in nursery</li> <li>- <u>Daniel Poole</u>: GME teacher made permanent; school advertising her previous temporary position</li> <li>- Gaelic ECP has been appointed – taking a leading role in devt of gaelic in nursery</li> <li>- <u>Katrina Wallace</u> new principal teacher; she replaces Donna Jenkins, greatly valued PT with many years service to the school</li> <li>- <u>Emma Stewart</u>: primary temporary additional auxiliary</li> </ul> <p><b><u>DHT Primary Update – Victoria Marshall</u></b></p> <p>Stringent risk assessments are ongoing - especially regarding hand sanitising and hand washing. Class bubbles continue in playground and class, except in Gaelic classes which are too small.</p> <p>At the return of pupils to school, the entries and exits to the school were busier than anticipated so the playground is being split up into different</p>	

areas and the children line up when the bell goes at 9. Anyone arriving after 9 just enters when they arrive.

At the end of the day, pupils that have siblings in nursery can leave at 3.10, easing congestion. This is working well. This avoids staggered beginnings/ends to the day which can be more disruptive.

- School uniform – optional until the end of summer term. In August there will be a return to school uniform.
- Parents’ nights – nursery parents will be before the holidays; primary 1-7 early in the next term. Reports will go out a little later than usual. Parent contact will be by telephone and feedback on this has been positive.

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**Primary Parents’ survey** (see slideshow) (JD) conducted a few weeks into remote learning. Also conducted some small focus group with pupils. Education Scotland questions used to allow comparisons with national responses.

Results were reassuring in communications; internet safety; provision of hardware and resources; high levels of provision of live lessons; balance between screen time and other activities; teacher support.

Scope for improvement in wellbeing and this is being addressed through better comms. Supporting WB is very challenging to do remotely. Although additional classes were available for pupils who needed them and check-ins for some pupils, perhaps the availability was not adequately communicated to primary parents.

*Parents Questions:*

*How many questions were there in the survey? A) 178 in total, (68 in primary 110 secondary)*

*It was difficult to complete the survey if a parent had a child at the primary and secondary.*

*A) We followed Education Scotland’s questions to ensure comparability but we recognise the limitations. Perhaps giving some parents two surveys would have been an option and this will be considered in future surveys.*

**Well-being (VM):** on return pupils showing positive signs in well-being but this is closely monitored. In class there will be a primary focus on reconnection and well-being. Bounce back (emotional expression) and emotion work (self-regulation and emotion naming) used in the primary and will be rolled out to nursery next term – what do you feel and what may be underlying those feelings. There has been enhanced staff training

in this. Friendships and social skills group work will be used within the constraints of COVID protocols.

**assessing learning** (VM)- the assessment calendar has worked well. Standardised assessments in reading and maths have been pushed back but will hopefully happen by the end of term. This will identify gaps in pupils’ learning. The assessments are designed to be fun and we don’t tell the children so that they won’t be anxious.

**Transitions** (VM)– everything needs to be reconsidered. Live online virtual tours to the children working OK. There will be an online information evening this term. P7 to S1 – we will build last year’s successful Microsoft Teams program. In-person events will depend on the state of the pandemic. Some collaboration with senior pupils giving virtual tours is being planned. We are looking at possibly putting these on the school website. JD: If possible, by June, we hope to have pupils able to visit the secondary in person.

**Nursery (VM)**: we have capacity. After easter holidays, with our new staff we hope to have gaelic nursery running. Those pupils in the G nursery will mix with the bigger wider group outside.

**Class rep scheme (VM)**: this is up and running well. It proved a great channel of communication.

**Welfare (VM)**: some families struggling financially are being invited to get in touch. There is a significant store of lost property/donations that is available.

**Parents portal** (Rhona Munro): parents are being encouraged to sign up – here they will be able to check attendance and progress. Access to parent pay and Parent’s Zone will be found on the portal. There will be teething trouble but parents are encouraged to get in touch with the school if they have problems.

**P&K Education Budget and survey for childcare in early education**: (Cllr John Duff): no new cuts have been announced; support for vulnerable children will not be compromised; school meal increase has been rejected; additional monies have been invested in the virtual campus and course choice; extra resources have been put into educational recovery to support children who have been disadvantaged by home learning; there is a modest increase in budget for transport in HP partnership; extra resources have been put into look at ASN transport costs to see how this transport can be made more efficient; extra funds for instrumental music service to promote access for disadvantaged parents.



**Natures Wood:** Nest boxes/hedgehog boxes/cameras: (Jason O’Flynn) the parent council will fund this P6 & P7 Social Enterprise initiative.

**P7 Cycling Initiative:** E Burtles will organise a school training cycle training initiative. Summer holiday cycle sessions are planned.

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**Parent Council Secondary School 7.30 – 8.30pm**

**Staffing Update (JD)**

F Vennel will be on maternity leave after easter holidays; we should be able to cover her with exiting staff

M Warren (maths) will finish on 31<sup>st</sup> May and we look to recruit into that post

Deputy headteacher – this is being advertised and we look to recruiting and interviewing for this post; L Liberri will stand in for this in the meantime

E Heaney (sport) will be leaving and we have recruited Sarah Dunlop into this post

Mrs Pullar (performing arts) is stepping down from 5 to 3 days a week; Catherine Milne has been recruited into the 2 day vacancy

**Current re-opening:** (L Librerri): in the phased return for secondary the main difference is the 2 m distancing; all children should experience a day a week in school; priority would be given to the senior phase experiencing their subject choices. S1-3 would experience a variety of curriculum areas with an emphasis on re-integration into school and well-being. Re priority given to senior phase, the practical assessment rota has been working well since 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. This timetable will run to Easter. All departments have worked hard to find balance between the virtual and face-to-face learning. An extra day will be allocated for S4 pupils for English and maths (Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March).

**Infection control measures:** (JD): we will follow existing protocol with an additional 2 metre distancing rule. Hand sanitisers will be used coming into school and into classes. Lunch arrangements – we are asking children not to go into town. The 2 m rule is difficult but pupils are co-operating well. Catering – 2 sittings are working well. Pupils are encouraged to pre-order.

**Uniforms:** will come back in August

	<p><b>Parental Survey:</b> (JD) for comparability with national figures the school used the questions from Education Scotland.</p> <p><b>Survey results:</b> (JD) Communications from school: survey score was disappointing and comms will be reappraised; regular teacher contact – score is high; well-being support – score was low, but it a considerable challenge for the school and comms will be reappraised and suggestions welcomed; online safety – the school support is doing well but seek to improve this; the school has worked hard to make provision of software &amp; equipment to pupils; live lessons – the school had made this a priority and the score is high; live lessons cannot be recorded; the school is reflecting on the survey, acknowledges the challenge and compromise in remote learning - broadly the school has performed above the national average.</p> <p>Parent comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Senior pupils' morale will improve with constant reassurance and praise for their hard work in the run up to their SQA assessment, instead of having work piled on to them</i></li> <li>- <i>Praise emails and pupil of the week - should this praise be observable by other pupils, making them feel pressurised to keep up and perform?</i></li> <li>- <i>Live lessons have worked really well, all teachers have been really supportive</i></li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p>(JD) The school is balancing reconnection and wellbeing and academic learning for all pupils. Celebrating success publicly is part of the pupil learning experience. We appreciate all the feedback that parents give the school. JD complimented the hard work of all the staff. Generally return is running smoothly.</p> <p><b>Heath &amp; Wellbeing:</b> (K Gatehouse): the school takes H&amp;W seriously - we have monitored attendance and engagement; the school has spoken to many parents &amp; pupils directly; we have worked with local partners to support families. Mrs Glover and Mr Davidson are welcoming pupils every day and checking-in during classes, actively asking pupils if they are OK. The school is planning nurture sessions twice a day. The school will continue with literacy and numeracy groups. A member of staff will follow a mentoring program with S2 pupils, giving individual pupils an opportunity to talk about where they feel they are in their journey. By Easter the school looks forward to giving greater focus to academic next steps.</p>	
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**Transition** – (KG) – virtual tours are planned; an information evening is planned in March; risk assessments are being done for in-person visits in June. If in-person isn't possible, an induction day is planned for August. Pitlochry transition planning is going well. Course choice transition – this is going well, and the deadline is Easter.

**SQA:** (L Li) Moving into term 4 there will be a focus on assessment and moderation; a booklet from SQA will go out to all parents explaining the alternative certification model for providing provisional results to the SQA (on the SQA website for download) In term 4 we aim to provide 2 assessment windows – week 2 in class assessments will begin in subjects without the input of practical assessment or coursework (science/maths/English), helping to set targets for academic next steps. The school recognises the challenging time constraints. After the initial assessment there will be senior report with comments and guidance. The second assessment window will be more formal with a timetable running for 2-3 weeks. In May & June there will be moderation and verification. P&K has asked for provisional results by 15<sup>th</sup> June. After this will be further quality assurance involving Breadalbane, P&K & SQA. The final deadline is 25<sup>th</sup> June.

**SQA Easter study:** there will be a timetable with many members of staff volunteering to provide sessions. How these sessions will be delivered will be risk assessed.

*When will the seniors finish school if there are no SQA exams?*

A: (LL) All courses will look to finish around 15<sup>th</sup> June. We will try to leave it as late as possible so that pupils have the time for their assessments.  
(JD) The school wants to mark the rite of passage for senior pupils leaving school and there will be an event at school date in June TBA.

**Parent Portal:** (RM, as above)

Parent comments:

- *Uniforms; Concerns expressed about sexting at school; effect on WB with facemasks*

A: (JD) uniforms will be back in August; face masks - P&K will need to go back to level 2 before we can reassess masks – we follow public health announcements and hope that after the summer these will not be mandatory. JD acknowledged the negative impact masks have in classes and wishes this to be eased soon; sexting (KD) – we deliver internet safety in PSE classes, computing dept and netiquette across MS Teams and work with parents before we make things a police matter.

*(Parent AP) – good to hear JD confirming that face masks are an impediment to education; I don't think that govt guidance is based on the*



*science and I would like to see the school pushing back against P&K and scot gov. However, the school has done really well in the second lockdown compared to the first.*

*(JO) It needs to be pointed out that there is a diversity of views on this and many parents are content to follow national advice.*

(JD) The school needs to meet the difficult challenges being faced as we follow public health advice. So far parents and pupils have been supportive and helpful.

- *When will there be a restart of gym/pool activities?*

(RM) Live Active are following national guidance and indoor facilities should be opening in mid-May

#### **Treasurer's report**

(TP) Little difference since the last meeting. Balance on FOB A/c £10,984.44 and Parent Council £4,238.50.

**Nature's Wood**: parent council votes to support this with no objections

**Summer holiday cycle sessions**: (as above)