



Meeting:	Breadalbane Academy Parent Council (BAPC)	
Date & Time:	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2021, Primary: 6:30-7.15pm; Secondary 7.15-8pm	
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><b><u>Primary:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Staff Update</u></b></p> <p>JD: Staffing has been stable in primary and secondary. Appointment of primary GME teacher is still in discussion with start for 2<sup>nd</sup> post beginning of August.</p> <p>Gaelic medium nursery is up and running.</p> <p>Gaelic PSA Mrs McSween has been appointed to a 3 day/week post and this will hopefully be extended to 5 days/week.</p> <p>Mrs Thornton has been providing cover in primary but will be leaving soon.</p> <p>Transition:</p> <p><b><u>Primary transition</u></b></p> <p>This will be done virtually but school would like a physical transition if P&amp;K guidance allows.</p> <p>KG: virtual transition program has started with a tour of the school. Two activities/week are being done with aim to continue this to summer holidays. Other primaries will be helping and supporting this. By summer holidays there will be contact with every department in school.</p> <p><i><u>Question:</u> will these videos be posted on the school website?</i></p> <p>KG: these are available on Microsoft Teams</p> <p><b><u>School Trips:</u></b></p> <p>JD: in terms of recovery, health &amp; wellbeing in 4th term trips are usually planned. Currently covid restriction easing make this a possibility from May 10<sup>th</sup> for primary and secondary. However,</p>	

guidelines are that parent helpers will not be allowed on the buses which may constrain options.

**Sports day:**

JD: current restrictions mean that no parent observers will be able to attend and classes cannot be mixed. These challenges are being worked around.

**Prize giving:**

JD: current restrictions mean that no parent observers will be able to attend celebration of success for primary/secondary. Schools is looking a virtual event with live feed and recordings.

**Natures Wood:**

JD: enterprise project involving P6 & P7 pupils led by Miss Grant rejuvenating wasteland behind the school. Interviews have been recorded for Heartland FM and an article has appeared in the Big Issue. All sales of the Big issue bought by parents will go to the school.

*Question: with the success of Nature's Wood will outdoor learning opportunities increase in the curriculum?*

VM: primary is already doing a lot of this across the curriculum. JD: the school is one of the few to employ an outdoor education specialist. This placement will continue next year. The John Muir Award 'Discovery Level' will also be introduced to primary.

*Question: will there be any more progress on playground for P4-P7?*

JD: pandemic has impacted this. RM – a meeting is being arranged and the aim is to move things forward after the summer. VM: ongoing issues regarding the steps. JD: one of the drains was not connected to main drain. LH: some match funding is still available from SSE, so PC will need to fundraise. JD: school aims to engage with PC in June to move things forward

*Question: Menus seem to be repetitive and monotonous. There is some concern over using artificial sweeteners for the lowering of sugar content in menus. Energy drinks: is the school in dialogue with any of the shops in Aberfeldy to restrict sales*

RM: Tayside Contracts have been challenged providing a service with all the additional cleaning that COVID restrictions require.



<p>Action</p> <p>Action</p>	<p>The menu has been restricted as a result. However, a new menu will be launched around govt directive on healthy eating.</p> <p>RM: on sweeteners there will be a follow up with Tayside Contracts.</p> <p>JD: a balance is needed between pupil choice and restrictions, and educating pupils about health eating. <u>Action</u>: JD/RM/VM to consider dialogue with local retailers re energy drinks.</p> <p><u>Action</u>: PC to write to tayside contracts re sweeteners</p> <p><i><u>Question</u>: there seems to be no homework this term. Can there be some spelling/times tables at least?</i></p> <p>VM: A period of reconnection, health &amp; wellbeing and adjustment has been a priority. A steady return to homework is underway.</p> <p>Parent: thank you to teachers for the parents evening.</p> <p><b><u>Secondary:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Staff Update</u></b></p> <p>Depute Teacher post still outstanding but interviews are underway.</p> <p><b><u>P&amp;K Funding – Virtual Campus</u></b></p> <p>Funds have been made available for all secondary schools to access a virtual campus – additional course choices will be offered to pupils through this development. The funding will facilitate a member of staff to manage this 1day/week.</p> <p><b><u>Physical Education</u></b> – a permanent member of staff will be appointed in the near future</p> <p><b><u>Recovery, Health &amp; Wellbeing</u></b> – instead of changing the school timetable in mid may this will happen later, to allow time for adjustment and SQA challenges. This will now happen on 14<sup>th</sup> June. This will provide extra time for 6<sup>th</sup> form.</p> <p><b><u>S6 Prom</u></b>: event planned for 10<sup>th</sup> June. COVID guidelines do not permit singing and dancing. KG: The hotel has been non-committal. Meetings with pupils are exploring options like a BBQ; the school is waiting for guidance from P&amp;K. We are planning an event for S4 &amp; S5 leavers.</p> <p><b><u>Activities Days</u></b>: we plan to have these 10<sup>th</sup> &amp; 11<sup>th</sup> June.</p> <p><b><u>Prize giving</u></b>: (see above)</p>	
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*Question: a parent has noticed that their child is experiencing worrying levels of stress over SQA assessments; how is the school reading/managing the stress amongst pupils?*

JD: the school tries to find balance between learning and assessment needs of pupils. The school acknowledges that many pupils are finding this difficult for staff and pupils. KG: the school does regular check-ins with pupils. A small number of pupils have engaged with the new counselling service Life Link – not just about exam stress but other life pressures. Parents are encouraged to get in touch with the school if they have worries – this will be treated with sensitivity and confidentiality.

*Parent observations: there have been no study leave days; time restrictions have been stressful; mocks exams have been crowded on the timetable*

**SQA:**

JD: study leave is usually for pupils doing exams. LL: time is tight and the school wanted to create opportunities for pupils to produce evidence for their assessments, helping them developing skills required. The assessment window means that some days will unavoidably stressful. The school is in dialogue with pupils and parental reports will be available from 14<sup>th</sup> May reflecting this.

The bigger assessment window with course assessments will be postponed as late as possible to allow as much time as possible for children to prepare.

It is hoped that by sharing timetable and putting on the Easter revision school this would help families prepare. The formal assessment window will start on 18<sup>th</sup> May. A new SQA section will appear on school website with info on alternative certification model, study support, timetables and guidance.

A further assessment moderation day will happen on 1<sup>st</sup> June involving all Tayside schools. This is an opportunity for teachers to work together to see that their assessments are robust.

A supplementary assessment window will be made available if required by candidates who need extra time to produce evidence.

Information gathering will hopefully be completed by June 8<sup>th</sup>. A final tracking report should go out to parents on 21<sup>st</sup> June.



	<p>Quality assurance &amp; moderation – throughout May SQA will be sampling across Scotland by May 17<sup>th</sup>. SQA will then give feedback to the school.</p> <p>Absolute deadline for provisional results to go to SQA is 25<sup>th</sup> June.</p> <p><i>Question: are these final assessments SQA based questions?</i></p> <p>LL: at the moment it is a mix of SQA and internally generated questions. In the big assessment window assessments will have mainly SQA questions. JD: this is not a normal year; time is tighter than usual. The school has tried it's best to find a balanced timetable.</p> <p><i>Question: if the assessment questions are from the SQA and the length of test are along the SQA lines, how is this process different to normal SQA exams other than who is doing the grading?</i></p> <p>LL: Subjects are following guidance from SQA. It is true that they are very similar.</p> <p><i>Question: <u>COVID Testing</u> – how has this been going and what has the take up been?</i></p> <p>JD: S1-3 most pupils are coming forward; S4-6 there has been a dropping off. RM: 66% pupils S1-S6 are testing; 80% staff are testing.</p> <p>ClIr Duff: P&amp;K data – 46% staff are testing; below 20% pupils are testing. This might be that when people have a negative result they don't register it.</p>	
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