## **BREADALBANE ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL**

## MEETING 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014

**PRESENT:** Caroline Nash (Chair), Sarah Yearsley (Secretary), Fiona Macdonald (Vice Chair, David McCluskey, (Depute), Andrew Pointer, Linda Swan, (Headteacher), Avril Taylor, Cllr Mike Williamson,

**Apologies:** Karl Wright, Cllr Ian Campbell, Tommy Pringle (Treasurer), Jane Kennedy, Councillor Kate Howie, Councillor John Kellas, Councillor Barbara Vaughan

Agenda Item	Action Noted	Action required	Action By
Welcome & Apologies	Apologies as above. As Graham Armstrong has left we need to find a new teacher	Send an email to staff	CN
	rep.		
Update on Quiz night	The quiz night went well and £220 was raised.		
Headteacher's report	LS gave a <b>staffing update</b> . Arrangements to cover the P1/2 teacher vacancy are		
	working well with the nursery teacher covering that role until recruitment takes		
	place and ECPs doing a great job in nursery. Emily Ross continues on secondment.		
	Secondary: vacancies in English, Maths, Chemistry and Physics are all currently		
	covered by supply teachers. Mr Blair, new Physics teacher starts after Easter.		
	<b>Exams:</b> the system is changing this year. The current S4s have done a lot of work		
	for the new National 4 and 5 qualifications. They will be asked for feedback on the		
	number of subjects studied after the exams. Study classes for Nat 5, Higher and		
	Advanced Higher students will run during the Easter holidays. Nat 4 qualifications		
	have no exams and are assessed by internal assignment. As they do not have		
	exams there will be no study leave for those studying for Nat 4s and the school is		
	programming a series of inserts that could be helpful with wider skills, such as self		
	esteem while other S4s are on study leave between 28 <sup>th</sup> April and 30 <sup>th</sup> May.		
	Students on study leave will be expected to come to school for compulsory study		
	days during this period. More information on study leave and exams is on the		
	school website.		
	Public Art project: following public consultation with the school and the		
	community, local artist and maker, Angus Ross, has created a public artwork which		
	is sited at the entrance to the school.		
	<b>Erasmus project:</b> the Modern Languages dept has a long standing relationship with		
	a school in Genas, near Lyon in France. This has developed into an Erasmus		
	partnership project with teachers in other countries. As part of the project, Elaine		
	Burke, PT English, took part in an international literacy project with other partners		
	in Genas. She will take part in a further project there in October 2015 with two		
	pupils from school.		

Subject choice	Morgan Chalmers has won the Tam Todd award for gamekeeping after training his own dog, he was supported by Mr Butter.  British Canoe Union: Recent canoeing success for Breadalbane pupils at the Junior World Championships Team selection includes:  Louise Revel - selected  Jacob Holmes – considered for selection. This is thanks to the dedication of Steve Macdonald and the other adults involved.  A parent asked about the apparent bias towards science subjects away from	
Judject choice	arts/humanities/languages and social sciences in the subject choices available to pupils from Nat 4/5 to Advanced Higher. The school said that this reflected a trend in subject choices more generally and that the choices reflect what the students have asked for when they are polled initially about choices.	
BYOD (Bring your own device)/Wifi	One parent was surprised that wifi was being made available to all students in the secondary school and wanted his serious concerns over safety issues to be minuted. The school are following local authority and government guidance in this matter and students will use their devices and wifi only when it fits with lesson plans. They will not be using their devices all the time. Other parents expressed their support for the use of smart phones and other devices and the availability of wifi. Only 3 parents have responded to school to say that they don't want their children to BYOD.	
AOCB	A parent expressed concern over high staff turnover at the school. LS explained that there are legitimate reasons for teachers leaving.  A parent asked why there was no open day for prospective primary parents. LS explained that staff have been very stretched which is why this hasn't happened yet.  A parent asked for an update on the school noticeboard and why it hasn't been put up yet. This will be done as soon as possible. The photo board of staff and teachers is still to be finished.  A parent raised the issue of Gaelic medium opportunities not being raised during a tour of the school for new parents. LS was surprised and said that this was very unlikely but she would look into it.  The school windband came second in its class at Perform in Perth.	
Next Meeting	The next meeting is Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 6.15pm in Breadalbane Academy. All welcome.	CN to book room