

Location: Breadalbane Community Campus**Chair:** Emma Burtles (EB)**Minutes:** Alison Steele (AS)**In Attendance**

John Devine (JD)	Vicky Marshall (VM)	Elizabeth Leighton (EL)
Bec Cameron(BC)	Libby Hughes (LH)	Gina Wallace (GW)
Beth McCallum (BMc)	Sharon Martin (SM)	Deborah Hannigan (DH)
Nigel Lumsden (NL)	Eleanor Laurie (EL)	Andrew Pointer (AP)
Alan Driver (AD)	Lorna Gibson (LG)	Donna Jenkins (DJ)
Mrs Ferguson (MrsF)		

No.	QUESTION & ANSWER	ACTION If required
1	Work Experience – Pupils – what is your experience of this and School – what are the opportunities for pupils to do work experience?	
	<p>Beth McCallum, S6, spoke highly about work experience and her placement in a hospital. Within S6 Senior Activities, 1 afternoon per week is given for work experience. Guidance teachers good at forwarding emails, links, information to pupils as they know what each student wishes to move onto.</p> <p>JD outlined that not every year group within secondary experiences work experience. At the end of S3 moving into S4 pupils have the opportunity for 1 week work experience. PKC guidance suggests all pupils with no highs (50% of Breadalbane pupils) should experience some form of work experience before leaving school. One issue in ensuring all pupils gain work experience are the risk assessments required for each potential placement.</p> <p>P6 and S1 pupils are involved in Take Your Child to Work Day along with a number of employers and infact parents coming into school to discuss employment and their careers.</p>	
2	Is there any training / advice / guidance given to pupils about money management? Given the number of young people who end up in debt, is this something that the school supports and how?	
	<p>JD – the school certainly supports giving all children the appropriate training, advice and guidance in relation to money matters and this is carried out in a number of ways, across a variety of subjects. Iona Coutts, PT Maths, arranges talks from banks. Citizens Advice and SASS have provided information on money management and student loans. There is a Life Skills Maths group and Budgeting is part of the curriculum. However, not sure how much is covered in Personal & Social Development. JD will find out more and feed back at a future meeting</p>	JD

3	What opportunities are there for students for extra curricular activities, in particular sports and team sports throughout Primary and Secondary.	
	<p>Within Primary there are no constant team sports or regular fixtures with other schools. Inter county sports events take place throughout term times and teams are put together for each event.</p> <p>Within Secondary we have a good range of team sports, i.e. Hockey, Football, Netball, Rugby & Basketball. These school teams compete on a regular basis within leagues and against district wide schools.</p> <p>NL commented that advertising of these sports events was not in evidence and perhaps we should be shouting about our achievements and encouraging more support of our teams when playing. JD confirmed that the school will look at how we can communicate about sports better, however noted that a number of events/achievements/acknowledgements are made in the twice termly newsletter.</p> <p>AP wished to commend the school/PKC on allowing a competitive element to feature in Sports Days / Sports events.</p> <p>And finally, a big THANK YOU Libby Hughes, who has helped raise a considerable amount of money towards new sports kits by completing and sending of, fund application forms to many community groups and committees. Along with money donated from FOG we now have a number of new kits for our sports teams.</p>	JD
4	Why does Breadalbane Academy not have an After School or Holiday Club?	
	<p>VM responded that the main factor was cost. The demand required to financially run these types of groups successfully is very high. Although surveys have been done and there is an interest at the school no group or organization has been able to offer anything so far.</p> <p>Some campuses in Perth offer Holiday Clubs and perhaps putting demand on PKC of offer something in Aberfeldy is needed. Although Live Active offer some clubs they are limited and certainly not regular throughout holidays.</p>	
5	Why do teachers not have email addresses accessible to parents? Communication still lacking and the website is not up-to-date.	
	<p>On behalf of the School Communication Group, Elizabeth Leighton responded that following the survey done throughout the school 18 months ago, a working group in conjunction with the Management Group, produced a report with a number of recommendations for improving communication within the school. So far, it's generally felt that a number of improvements have been made but more can be done. Another survey will be done this Spring to take stock of where we are and the areas to concentrate on.</p> <p>JD – teachers do not have time to read/respond to a large number of emails from parents and a need to quality assurance means this is not practical.</p>	

	<p>However, Guidance Teachers email addresses are available for use. All communication should come via the school office, whether in person, phone or email. All communication is recorded and a response will be given stating a timescale for reply. All emails vetted to ensure they are forwarded and dealt with by the appropriate person be it teacher, Principal Teacher or Guidance Teacher.</p> <p>If you phone the school, leave a message for a teacher and receive no response, this is totally unacceptable and a complaint should be made to JD. All problems with communication will be dealt with and it is very important the school gets it right, so the more information we have the better.</p> <p>Audience agreed that receiving text messages advising a letter in your child's bag, a very good idea.</p> <p>JD agreed that the website is still not great and a number of areas can be improved upon. He will make this a priority between now and the summer.</p> <p>It was agreed by all that more publicity about the improvements made so far on communication and the website should be made to encourage parents to use the website.</p>	JD
6	What is the thought on homework given within the Primary Dept? A number of schools in PKC / Scotland no longer issue homework.	
	<p>Mrs F – parents and pupils completed a questionnaire last year regarding homework provision and based on the results, homework is still given.</p> <p>JD - reluctant to withdraw homework. EB - a gradual increase in the amount of homework given from P1 through S6 would be the logical way to go. Homework should only be issued if it is useful, constructive and meaningful, otherwise it's a waste of time!</p>	
7	There is a lot of pressure on children today, mental health is a big issue – what is done to help children cope with stress, anxiety, exam pressure?	
	<p>A number of things are done to make children aware of these issues and give them the mechanisms to handle situations. Within Health & Wellbeing and Personal Support classes many topics are discussed and a good relationship built between teacher and pupils.</p> <p>VM – Bounce Back used within Primary very successfully and the teacher/pupil relationship is good and allows a relationship to build.</p> <p>Suggested that Parent Council have a session on Mental Health – April meeting – invite Steve McDonald, Kayak Coach, to talk and others to input other ideas.</p> <p>School could also push outside contacts for pupils where appropriate.</p>	PC JD
8	What other languages taught in Primary, other than Gaelic?	

	French	
9	To everyone – What one thing could Parent Council / Management / Pupils do to improve Breadalbane Academy?	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils more involved and having a say – improved but keep going • More pupil voice and pupil councils • More parent involvement with fundraising and across the board • Better recruitment and retention – slightly less turnover now but still an issue • Celebrate good things everyday • Appreciate the kids • More support for teachers – sickness cover, structured timetable, feedback from parents • Continue partnerships with pupils / staff/ different staff groups • Outdoor Education a good start – things turning around • My kids lucky to be here – not perfect – but its brilliant! 	

At this point time was running out and a number of questions remained unanswered:

Retention of staff

Discipline Policy within Primary

SQA competency

Head Teacher autonomy

Why is Breadalbane on an Eco School

Cycle Training for P7

PC will try and address these questions at future PC Meetings, the schedule of which is:

Thursday 23 rd February 2017	Internet Use / Safety Child's Plan – especially ASN Children
Tuesday 28 th March 2017	Held in Dunkeld Transitions – all – Nursery-P1, P7-S1, S4/S5 from Pitlochry, S6 wider world
Wednesday 26 th April 2017	Mental Health
Thursday 25 th May 2017	AGM
29 th June 2017	End of Term Celebration Event