Belonging, Believing,
Breadalbane Academy
Aspiring, Achieving!

Meeting:	Breadalbane Academy Parent Council (BAPC)	
Date & Time:	Wednesday 22nd September 2021, Primary: 6:30-7.15pm; Secondary 7.15-8pm.	
Location:	Virtual meeting hosted on Zoom platform	
Attendance: Apologies:	J.Devine (JD), L.Libreri, J. O'Flynn (Chair), A.Pointer (Vice-Chair), Shannon Mulholland (Treasurer), Eleanor Laurie, Karl Wright Cllr J.Duff Cllr X McDade, K Wright, K Gatehouse, Vicky Marshall, R.Munro	**Action**

Staffing Update

There has been funding through the COVID recovery plan so there are some new faces at Breadalbane.

New Staff:

- Covid Recovery Teacher – Louise Lyon – *focusing on key devt areas and lost learning*
- Community Learning Assistant – Amelia Bradford – *looking at attendance and* punctuality
- Sky Room – Julia Peters, currently on supply – intensive support provision
- ECP in Primary 1 – Gail Henderson – focusing on play
- PSA – Sarah Provan

Recruiting for:

- 1 x PSA for GME
- 1 x PSA to replace Csilla Hooton
- 1 x Breakfast Club Assistant to replace Cilla Hooton
- 1 x ISP teacher

Nursery

- Katy Spaven – ECP
- 2 x ECP vacancies currently being recruited to.

School Improvement plan

- **Pupil Voice/UNCRC**

The school is looking at how to deliver art 12 (below) and nurture a culture that reflects this: how to take on board the views of pupils and

involve them in planning. The school will support bridge building especially with the pupil council.

(UNCRC Article 12: Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.)

- In self-evaluation
- In learning and teaching
- In school culture – restorative, pupil council etc

- **Inclusion**

The school wants to see that every pupil coming to school feels that they belong and that staff training is adequate.

- In curriculum
- In learning and teaching
- In school culture
- In staff expertise
- In attainment (literacy and numeracy)

- **Assessment/Moderation/Tracking**

The school wants to be sure that there is ongoing engagement with pupils and parents with the aim of better understanding of pupils levels of progress.

- For transitions
- For the Broad General Education (P1-S3)
- For S4-6/SQA

- **Skills**

The school wants to nurture pupils that are rounded individuals with the right attitude for the world of work. This will be given greater focus in this academic year. Mental Health & Wellbeing form part of this.

- In curriculum
- In PSE
- Through partnership

- At whole school level

A sub group of parents will work with the school to collaborate with the delivery of mental health and wellbeing, with an additional on bullying, and those who wish to get involved should contact:

chairperson@breadalbaneparents.com

Primary Staffing Standard for Management

The headteacher's role is stretched and standards are under review. JC feels that there should be a senior manager for both primary and secondary and is making representations to P&K.

P4-7 Playground

A sub group has been formed. Shrubbery is an issue and has been fenced off. To get involved in developing a plan for the playground, please contact the parent council:

chairperson@breadalbaneparents.com

A biodiversity grant has been applied for and a meeting of the sub group will start next week headed by Eleanor Laurie.

Transgender Guidance

The school will move forward in dialogue with parents and to offer reassurance:

- Do not anticipate any changes in current practice
- Will continue to work on the principle that parents should be involved
- In cases of toilets/changing rooms/accommodation, will deal with on a case-by-case basis
- Any decision would require that *'the rights of all those involved are considered and respected'*

Questions:

- *"Through my involvement with the Aberfeldy Sports Hub and general interest in swimming over the years, it has always struck me as a missed opportunity to not have a swimming and primary school link- to be able to provide free swimming lessons as a feature of class sport and activities."*

JD: brilliant idea but not sure how this could be delivered/funded/staffed in practice. The school is open to dialogue and will make enquiries.

- *"can you confirm that the Transgender guidance is not legal but advisory"*

JD: yes absolutely. Whereas the guidance points to the law like the Equalities Act, there are exceptions and the school will examine things on a case by case basis taking into consideration the rights of all pupils.

- *"can I be assured that there will be a continuing emphasis on Outdoor Learning"*

JD: absolutely. Beth Wallace will take forward the work of Miss O'Shea and the school considers Outdoor Learning a vital part of the curriculum and we are looking at how to deliver, eg., John Muir to P6, P7 and S1.

Treasurer's report:

Friends account £11801.61
PC account - £6490

AGM

Confirmed to the parent council were:

Jason O'Flynn – chair
Shannon Mulholland – treasurer
Andy Pointer – co-chair
Eleanor Laurie
Karl Wright

We would love any parents who might like to offer support in web/tech and fundraising to get in touch. Anyone who might like to help on the administrative side we have a vacancy for the secretary post which is paid at £40 per Parent Council meeting.

If you are interested, please message:

chairperson@breadalbaneparents.com

Secondary Update

Staffing:

- Ms McDermott – supplanting Meg Neilson
- Ms Arnott – support for learning
- Probationers – Ms Brant, maths; Ms Lever, social subjects; Ms Sinclair, PE
- Ms Lawson – inclusion, working with individual pupils

COVID Recovery Staffing:

Mr Ritchie, core skills; Ms Freshwater – PSA – pupil support; Ms MacLennan – Pupil Care and Welfare Officer, focusing on attendance and pupils with issues

School Improvement Plan:

(see earlier comments)

Pupil Voice – school wishes to continue to support the pupil council and continue to see how to enhance pupil engagement. JD will recommence the invitation of 5 pupils per week to chat to him and give feedback on their experience of the school.

Inclusion – the school wants to see that staff have sufficient expertise and training to teach an inclusive class

Assessment – the school will introduce 'progress and achievement' for pupils in S1/2/3; SQA: contingency plans are being made for all eventualities, even if there is reversion to the alternative certification model. SQA will make a decision in March/April 2022.

Skills: the school wants to help pupils build resilience and self-awareness in readiness for the world of work

Secondary Updates:

Changing rooms: with easing of some covid restriction, the school hopes that changing rooms will be used soon

Parents Nights – S2 will be happening soon but not in person due to ongoing restrictions. The school is looking at possibilities for socially distanced contact later in the autumn.

Energy drinks: JD spoke to the pupil council and feedback is that energy drinks are not a significant problem. Most retailers in Aberfeldy have agreed not to sell them. If parents have concerns please get in touch with the school directly or via the parent count – chairperson@breadalbaneparents.com

Transgender Guidance: as above for primary

- Question: "*is there a danger of direct discrimination is a child's transgender issues are put out for general parental debate?"*

JD: the school wants to offer reassurance that this would never happen. Only discussions of a broad nature would be discussed.

Medical Consent for vaccines: Over 12 year old children do not need parental consent. However, as the program is administered by the NHS there will still be liaison with parents.

Questions:

- *"Can I have reassurance on how the school deals with bullying"*

JD: absolutely – the school takes a zero tolerance to bullying. Any concerned parents should contact John Devine directly. A parent bullying group was running in previous years, and this will be supported moving forward. Bullying is addressed in PSE classes.

- *"I am concerned about levels of self-harm"*

JD: levels of self-harm are rising across the country and if a parent is concerned or observes something, please contact the school. Through Life

Link, a counsellor comes to the school 3 days a week and Angus Cameron, a retired GP also provides counselling support.

The school recommends website togetherall.com – a resource for the 16-25 year olds.

JD encouraged the idea of a small group of teachers and parents as 'critical friends' to examine school practice.

A sub group of parents will work with the school to collaborate with the delivery of mental health and wellbeing, with an additional on bullying, and those who wish to get involved should contact:

chairperson@breadalbaneparents.com

- *"Can the school comment on how ventilation of buildings will work during autumn and winter?"*

JD: As Breadalbane Academy is a new campus this is not as problematic as for other schools. However it is unlikely COVID restrictions will be eased in the foreseeable future and windows will need to be opened to 15%

- "what is the uptake in testing for COVID"

JD: this is still low but higher than the P&K average. Reporting via the portal is under 50% for staff and pupils.

SQA UPDATE (L Liberi)

Delighted at last years results.

91% of pupils achieving level 3&4

56% achieving 1 or more qualifications at National 5

54% level 6 – 3 or more qualifications, the highest in 5 years

?% - 5 highers or more at level 6

Over 1/3 of the cohort gained at least 1 advanced higher

The school is satisfied that the process for assessment was robust, fair and accurate.

The school is working toward an exam diet starting 26th April. SQA have made amendments to courses in light of the impact of COVID, and only if

	there is major disruption will there be a return to last years 'alternative certification model.' The school will build on last years success in assessing pupils and this is part of the school improvement plan. The first tracking window will begin in October, and in December parents reports. The prelim diet is scheduled for January 2022 and the final tracking window is February 2022. End of March will be the deadline for changes in SQA entries. **Questions:** • *'has there been grade inflation?'* LL: a process of moderation took place and the school is not concerned that there was grade inflation. The pupils worked hard and gained achievement levels that were fair. • *'pupils who have had to self-isolate may have lost out on learning – is this addressed?'* LL: If any parents are concerned please contact the school. We are doing everything we can to ensure that no pupil is disadvantaged.	