

BRAES HIGH SCHOOL
Parent Council 22.1.25

Present : K MacKinnon (Chair), Cllr A Hannah, C Lawson, W Ormsby, M Smith, J Shaw (DHT), D Yeates (DHT), I Livingstone (HT)

Apologies : M Lang, Cllr Paterson, Cllr Forrest, K Baird

1. Previous minute/Matters Arising

The previous meeting's minute was agreed with the following points raised :

- The school's move to Bluesky for social media posts was highlighted, with email continuing to be the main form of direct communication with families, backed up on the school website and App.
- K MacKinnon asked if departmental Bluesky accounts could be shared with families
- M Smith updated on the possible transfer to Co-op Bank for the Parent Council account
- Cllr Hannah noted the recent Falkirk Council decision not to pursue the proposed changes to the learning week

Action – I Livingstone will circulate departmental Bluesky account details in communications

2. Learning and Teaching update

D Yeates updated on progress with the ongoing development of learning and teaching, noting :

- The different aspects of the framework
- The interactive resources for staff
- The prominent role of pupils in our self-evaluation
- The key messages from the HMIE visit
- The collaboration with colleagues across the authority
- The link between self-evaluation and professional learning

Braes pupils, Abbie and Daisy, presented on their role as self-evaluation leaders, noting the impact of their work in supporting approaches to how we meet learners' needs in lessons, and the planned next steps to consider approaches to how feedback is given to pupils about their learning. Discussion also focused on different approaches to assessment, and the role of continuous assessment.

3. Mobile Phones in school

J Shaw and D Yeates presented on the school's planned approach to how mobile phones are used in school, by both pupils and staff. The key points of the amended approach were shared and discussed, noting :

- The new approach will begin from April 2025
- Pupils in S1/2 will place mobile phones in secure boxes, protective of phone screens during lessons
- Pupils can continue to use phones in their own time during breaks and lunchtimes
- From August 2025 this approach will include S1-3
- S4-6 pupils will switch phones and place them in their schoolbags or in the secure box.

The policy has been developed following consultation with parents/carers, pupils and staff, and in line with national and local guidance, and is designed to support focus in lessons and wellbeing. Action – the policy will now be shared with parents/carers and launched with pupils in February, before implementation in April.

4. Tesco tokens

I Livingstone highlighted the opportunity for parents/carers and the local community to support Braes High School's entry to the Tesco blue tokens project, supporting the 'Breakfast at Braes' programme.

5. Family Fun Day

I Livingstone noted the planned Family Fun Day, scheduled for the morning of Saturday 31st May. This will give a chance for current Braes pupils and their families, and those in associated primary schools to visit the school and enjoy a range of fun activities, to get to know the school and staff better.

6. Anti-bullying policy

I Livingstone asked for Parent Council on the recently updated anti-bullying policy.
Action – any feedback to be emailed to K MacKinnon

7. Sports and Leisure development update

I Livingstone gave a brief overview of the preferred option for development of additional sports facilities. Cllr Hannah advised on the next steps in the decision-making process

8. Rewards Day

I Livingstone advised on the emphasis in this year's Rewards Days on local and low-cost options.

9. Reddingmuirhead and Wallacestone Community Council

10.

I Livingstone reported on the request from Reddingmuirhead and Wallacestone Community Council (RWCC) for young people, and parents/carers to be involved in informing their contribution to Falkirk Council's local place plan for the area. Parent Council agreed to explore this with Ian Shotliff, secretary of RWCC.

Action – K MacKinnon, I Shotliff and I Livingstone to liaise regarding this.

10. Proposals to amend the legislation of religious observance

The current consultation on proposed changes to the legislation regarding pupil participation in religious observance and religious education was discussed. The potential impact on how decisions are made regarding the participation or non-participation of young people in such activities, and the role of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was discussed.

Actions – parents/carers were invited to engage in the consultation online.