

**Braes High School Parent Council Meeting**  
**Monday 7 October 2024**

**In Attendance**

Iain Livingstone (Headteacher), Kenneth MacKinnon (Chair), Kirsty Baird, Jackie Ormsby, Matt Taylor (Treasurer), Carlann Houghton

Staff – David Ironside, Jillian Shaw, Laura Eckles and Pupils attended for Gen X presentation

**Apologies**

Morag Lang, Councillor Hannah

**Previous minutes and actions**

Minutes from Monday 3 June 2023 proposed by Kenneth McKinnon and seconded by Jackie Ormsby.

*Presentation on Gen + project*

Laura Eckles and 4 pupils provided the parent council on the Gen +. This is a skills framework which will give each young person a skills profile by the end of S3. It provides young persons with essential skills for learning, work and life. There are 9 skills – Resilience, Initiative, Critical thinking, Organisation, collaborations, leadership, creativity, communication and adaptability. These underpin future earning and life. This will start in P6/7 when young persons can explore, S1 they can trailblazer, S2 is a gamechanger and S3 they are innovators. S1 focusses on communication, organisation and resilience. S2 focusses on collaboration, initiative and leadership. S3 focusses on adaptability, creativity and critical thinking. Between August and February there will be 4 lessons. They will learn Gen + in PSE but it will be used in lessons across all faculties.

One young person explained how developed her persuasion skills and was able to better understand her own beliefs and other peoples beliefs. She was able to be more patient with others in her swimming/sporting activities. She was able to reflect on her own strengths and weaknesses and understood what her mindset looked like. She was able to form a skill set, ask questions, explore ideas, stay more focussed and has become more confident.

Another young person explained how Gen+ has helped him become more openminded as previously he had a fixed mindset and wasn't flexible to how other people's minds work. He has been able to see how different methods can be used and can better understand why others may be doing things differently from himself. He explained that the platform was appealing to young persons as it looked good. The journal was a great tool to be able to write what you think about lessons and only teachers will be able to see it and this gives you the confidence and reassurance other young persons won't judge you.

He was able to use it in his sporting play to understand what others were doing in training or games and it has assisted in calming him down and to undertake leadership roles in rugby. It has also been used in maths where it gets the class working together and it involves helping each other and the teacher. It is something that can be used in the future for jobs, college, friends and relationships.

Two young persons then carried out a practical fun exercise with the parent council called the moving day challenge to illustrate how Gen+ can work within a lesson. Gen+ will continue in the school with the 9 skills being woven throughout lessons.

### Updates from the school

1. Mr Ironside had presented the raw attainment data at the last meeting, however the Scottish Government insight data has now been released. This data provides information about how Braes High is achieving in terms in comparison with other schools in the country with similar size and demographics (the virtual comparator).

This data looks at Nat 3, N4, N5, Higher and advanced higher qualifications, Literacy, numeracy overall SQA qualifications (our personal development subjects). In all areas Braes High is performing above the national virtual comparator, in all areas except Advanced Highers, which was discussed. This figure can be lower depending on the size of the year group and the subjects on offer at S6. Following the information being released there have been staff meetings, with teachers discussing their own courses and reflecting on how their young persons compare against the VC. There will be supportive discussions and key learning points taken. The focus remains for there to be positive destinations for every young person and the school will continue to provide updates.

2. The Scottish government have their own proposals for the impact on mobile phones in schools and Falkirk Council will be releasing their own guidance. Schools will then review their own policies and approaches to this. Braes High maintain the approach that IT and phones can enhance learning if used appropriately. There will be a pupil, Teachers and parents/carers consultation coming out and an update of the findings released at the next meeting.

3. The consultation event regarding the new proposal for community leisure facilities was successful. The consultation is still open, and this will continue to be an agenda item with regular updates being given.

4. The Hayward Final Report has been published. Mr Livingstone provided a summary and the paper, and the findings can be found on the Scottish Government Website.

### AOB

The treasures report was available to view.

There were positive comments on the new tracking reports, which provided more comprehensive and easy to understand information to parents/carers on how their

young persons is progressing in each subject.

Proposed dates for future meetings

Tuesday 26 November

Wednesday 22 January

Thursday 13 March

Tuesday 6 May

Monday 2 Jun