



Hermitage Parent Council

20th January 2025

7pm-8pm

HAPC:

Name	Role/Year Rep	Attendance
Douglas Morgan (DM)	Head Teacher	In Person
Laura Watt (LW)	Chair (S4 Year Rep)	In Person
Vacant	Vice Chair	-----
Stella Kinloch (SK)	Deputy Chair / Treasurer (S2 Year Rep)	In Person
Kirsty Sweeney (KS)	Secretary (S2 Year Rep)	In Person
Fiona Ramsden (FR)	ASN Rep	Virtual
Claire Walker (CW)	S3 Year Rep	In Person
Andrew Tennant (AT)	S5 Year Rep	Virtual
Kathleen Daly (KD)	S4 Year Rep	In Person
Anna Tkachenko (AT)	S1 Year Rep	In Person
Donna Holland Gairns	S1 Year Rep	In Person

- 5 other parents attended.

Acronyms

PC – Parent Council

ASN – Additional Support Needs

SDS – Skills Development Scotland - [About SDS - Skills Development Scotland](#)

ANA – Addressing non attendance

SMART – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timescale

CONNECT – formerly Scottish Parent Teacher Council

BGE – Broad General Education – encompasses curriculum from S1 to S3.

1. Welcome and Apologies
<p>The meeting was opened by SK who is to chair the meeting. No apologies. Welcome S1 rep – Donna Gairns</p>
2. Minutes of last meeting

Communications hasn't met so no feedback at this point.
Traffic – any update? - were PC going to draw together the main concerns from Parents. I.e. overlapping - School happy to help.
Action - **PC to provide top 5 traffic concerns**

3. Additional Support Needs (ASN) Update Report

The group met and there will be a meeting this Thursday with Claire / Lauren Henderson and agenda will be issued before the meeting.
There is to be work over summer – learning centre.
A full update will be brought to the next PC meeting and will be going out to parents.

4. Headteacher's report

Staffing update – due to staff illness, backfill principal of technical – Mr Mitchell appointed to fill Ms Dougan.

Social Media/News - reduction in teacher number, meeting tomorrow to look at staffing allocation for 2025/26 and it has been confirmed that our staffing will increase and not decrease. Partly to do with pupil head count but also increase staffing around the learning centre.

Christmas festivities – concert, jumper day, inflatables, Christmas lunch, senior dance, rebranded festive showdown, plus Beatson Cancer – All activities were successful and are important ethos builders and staff and pupils work together.

Prelims – impressed with S4 candidates, glowing reports and similar feedback on S5 and S6 and they finish next week from invigilators. Thank to Mrs Muir and Mrs Henderson for all their help.

Careers and pathways evening – This event helps us kick start the course choice for S2, 68 employers, school staff and Skills Development Scotland (SDS) staff with presentations. Lots of information goes home on course choices etc. Lots of good feedback on the night.

Tumbles 47 (cafe/ coffee bar) now launches, an official opening a week tonight. Initially for S6 and staff. Rocket monkey and Cameron House have been supporting this project. Great to develop work skills and also a study space too. 27th Jan – Gordon Tumble legend who was with the school for 47 years will open.

S1 Parent night - 80% the games hall was a positive news and will try this for S2 and S3 parents night. Will check feedback from PE department.

Parents and carers to engage with stakeholder survey that the communication team has been working on.

Spring study S4/5/6 years – w/c over Easter holidays – first week. We will be able to do full allocation and parent council will offer pizza.

Qu – S3 appointments re choices and dates re ASN extra support. All in diary and invites may not have been put out.

5. Insight and Pupil Attainment

The PC looked at the data set and looked at the levels. We are meeting ABC comparatives and nationally. We had once been in top 100 and overall some assurances about what this is showing.

Miss Stuart - Lead on Attainment is here tonight – welcome a conversation on this. June 2025 before a full comparatives nationally.

Community service paper – does compare us on pass rates. It is not a good indicator as can be manipulated. Increase presentation then increase pass rates. There are 7 stats the school is compared to.

National 5 – pupils presented – high level

National 5 – A to C

Adv Higher - A-C - this is the one area that we were below national

National 5 – A-D consistently above the average

Adv Higher - A-D

We try to encourage pupils to go forward for presentation. Sometimes lower result at prelims but there if there is a chance they will get a 'D'.

Our judgement is based on final performance. Our judgements that we make is the most accurate. It shows the system we have in place are working to have those conversations with the parents. Can give informed decisions about going to final exams.

Pass rates – walk a fine line as it is about presentation and performance

PC question - All schools are being judged the same but the school has a choice on who they present.

League tables – is purely on the pupils that get 5 Highers. Some pupils are increase college courses or foundation apprenticeships etc that do not go on the league tables. Therefore some pupils are choosing less Highers because of taking on these other opportunities.

There is a changing culture across Scotland and less and less are looking at league tables. It is more about meeting needs on individual journeys. Biggest challenge in Scottish Education is the hayward review.

Trying to individualise each pupils plan. Positive destinations stats will be release in Feb – but our internal tracking will show this is the best results we have ever had. The individual pathways is enriching pupils and taking them to positive destination.

Mrs Muir - data is really important, prior learning – take to the staff the prior level, we see the full journey through the school of each pupil – estimate, attainment concern. Allows staff to really reflect and we have been doing this for a couple of years and had a really impact on the judgement and intervention at the right time.

S4 take that to each department and get them to raise any attainment issues they may have.

There is a **pupil tracker** that allows staff to access individual pupil information and if you think a pupil is going to pass then they concerns over prelimins. Only taking real attainment concerns out to parents.

Centralising it all, means that you can see the whole person not individual decisions for individual departments.

Also the diversification and less doing Highers. Part of the analysis also shows the area's for improvement.

The most important priority in the IP – continuous assessment which can make the biggest improvement. It is the 3rd priority to raise attainment.

Big part of that is shared standards.

Transitions, taking transitions earlier – numeracy and maths

Staff out and about into primary earlier – science teams have been out, we pay for that

Peer mentoring interventions

ANA – addressing non attendance – the majority that young people don't perform is non attendance. Look to get help from parents with this.

Staff and ASN staff having initial training and some more in Feb in-service day.

Some departments are high attaining and some aren't so we are identifying good practice across other schools – partnership with schools elsewhere beyond ABC. Renfrewshire, Glasgow, E and W Dunbartonshire etc. Learn from others.

We have SMART targets around ANA and standards in every department. Want to find out what works for our young people and holding each department accountable.

Qu – published stats. Gaps that are not highlighting where we are doing really well.

School has stats on literacy and numeracy and we have such exceptional stats that we want to share and it is not something that is published anywhere. Area committee in June talking about what kids are doing a year past in May. Then the main message is pass rates and league tables. There is no details on all the other information.

And parent council can't get Insight details.

Standing item in November might be an idea. Even though not a national benchmark and can do a presentation in here but can't be published and put out until the Feb. Information comes out in Sept so committee meeting could be the October.

Qu - Contextual communication to everyone – demonstrate alternative pathways.

We actually needs to stop saying 'alternative' pathway. As these are becoming more the norm.

Qu – need to communicate early. We know booklets come out but face to face and feedback from parents that have been through the process will be good.

There can be cases where some subject area that are not performing and not having positive outcomes – so adapt course and do different course.

We always want to see a young person can work independently before going on to UCI which rely on independent working.

Mrs Muir is having the conversations with the college right now.

6. Other matters

7th Jan – problem fixed re water re hairdressing

7. Prelim

Delay at getting into exam rooms
 Mrs Muir - was raised. Sometimes there are last minute changes.
 But there was a slight mis communication with janitors about the number of rows set out.
 There can be issues with staff absences, or technical issues with rooms – lighting/flooding
 But we have a system in place to deal with changes
 Check the Board, seat number before they go to the classes
 No registration classes at final exams to allow staff to tell pupils so they do need to check the boards but this does exist during prelims and pupils can leave early registration class.
 It can be a very last minute change and not something that has happened the day before.
 Assembly – pupils have been told about the boards, past experiences.
 What about pin notice on google classroom.
 Mr Muir presentation – could it be pinned?
 Take notes on things we can improve on. So when we do final presentation that we will go over these points.
 Achievability of staff to do all these checks of Board.
 It is disappointing this issue happened but 3,000 presentations went well. And we will continue to take on board feedback. Less wandering of pupils and overcome that problem.
 Intention to get a pupil voices.

Feedback

Prelims – agree more in attendance, wasn't sufficient time on a double period – either a double or single, period 6 schedule of the exam after a day of learning was difficult inc one on a Friday.
 That has come out in the pupil focus groups.
 Paper 1/2 some didn't get both papers. i.e. multi-choice option. Don't get a chance to learn time management between the two papers.
 Portfolio work is being done alongside prelims -...?
 Be mindful of the added pressure on the portfolio work.
 Welcome to teachers to all those who made themselves available.

8. Maths email messages

PC are pleased Maths sent messages but these are going to pupil email addresses and not getting copied to parents.

School are exploring if an email can go from 'Glow' and also to the parent at the same time. It really is good process.

9. Google Classroom

PC ask if there an opportunity to go over this again.
 Also logging in and toggling between different children in a household.

School have Mr Munro working on this and the junior school are going to do a 'how to' video.

10. Positive Relationships

Parents to understand bullying, jargon terminology and key words and topics on the website.

Thanks for feedback. Challenge with uploading documents with graphics. Need to make the area of the website more user friendly.
Public facing version that went through the Comms team is there and ready to go but we can't get it on the website due to the graphics.
Action – further work to do and pick up with the Comms team.

11. Treasurers Update

The old account needs closed and money transferred.
Money from the Argyll and Bute Council went into the old account.
We need to plan as a committee to deal with the funds.
Help with learning hub is an idea but would like more ideas from school.
School can provide ideas so literacy and numeracy.
i.e. something that all school benefits from.

12. AOB

PC stands at events – 28th Jan, 6th March, 4th June – key areas we want to book a stand.
Get a rota on.

Date of next meeting – 17th March – working group meeting then 9th June 2025 next forum parent facing meeting. Communication group is to meet 3rd March.