



<https://alfordacademy.edublogs.org/parent-council>
<http://alfordaca.pc@outlook.com>

MINUTES OF THE ALFORD ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 14th March 2023 (7.00 - 9.00 pm)
Virtual - via Teams link

Attendees

Office Bearers:	Ingrid Huldal (Chair), Joe Purkis (Depute-chair), Coralie Robertson (Secretary), Dawn Brown (Treasurer)
Parent Council Members:	Donna Gray, Fiona Henderson, Monica Iloya, Sarah Lewis, Charlotte Millburn, Frank Sewell
Parent Forum:	Anouk Kloppert, Fay Mckay, Aly Lyon, Anne Manning, Louise Mitchell, Linda Purkis, Susie Young, David Wilson
School Staff:	Mrs Angela Wotherspoon - Head Teacher Mr Stuart Cookson - Depute Head Teacher (Curriculum) Mr Graham Scott - Acting Depute Head Teacher (Pupil Support)
Councillors:	Cllr Ron McKail, Cllr Gwyneth Petrie

1. Welcome & apologies

Apologies:

Karen Leven, Sharon Witherspoon, Fiona Woodhead
Dr Matt Skellern - Depute Head Teacher (Learning and Teaching)
Cllr Sarah Brown, Cllr Geva Blackett, Cllr Jeff Goodhall

2. Review of previous meeting minutes and matters arising

Minutes approved by Joe Purkis, seconded by Anne Manning.

- Fundraising sub-group made aware of Ward 14 funding and will look into it if there are suitable opportunities. School had made use of the funds previously to support festive school hampers.
- Fundraising sub-group has started looking at the Tesco application and noted the process takes 12 – 18 months with a maximum grant of £1,500. Fundraising sub- group to progress the application.
- The Attainment Review 2022 presentation was sent out with the previous minutes.
- Mrs Wotherspoon has spoken to staff about Maths classes based on ability and as the principal teacher of Maths is in an acting role this will be looked at and discussed with the new timetable.

3. Treasurer Report

The Parent Council (PC) account has a healthy balance.

Income and Expenditure statement, 23rd January 2023 – 14th March 2023

Date	Transaction	Income	Expenditure	Balance
23/01/23	Opening balance			£8417.01
14/02/23	Easyfundraising	£82.56		£8499.57
14/03/23	Closing balance			£8499.57

Note to the accounts

Of the £8499.57, £4027.32 is restricted funding from the Co-op funding for the Outdoor Space project. That leaves £4,472.25 as unrestricted, with a cheque for £219.32 to still be presented for the donation to the school library.

That leaves £4,252.93 in the unrestricted funds.

4. Sub-committee updates

School Uniform Recycling – school uniform can now be donated directly to school and freely available to be collected from the Campus foyer.

FUNDRAISING

- The Outdoor Space project has a target of £7,500 so that it can take up the offer of matched funding to bring the total up to £15,000.
- Dawn advised that more funding applications would be available to PC if it were setup as a registered charity and has looked at the pros and cons. Charitable status will enable the PC to access particular funding, but along with that will come particular responsibilities. Information about charitable status will be sent out to parents and carers and voted on at the next meeting.
- The fundraising sub-group would like some more volunteers to look at social fundraising events. If you are able to support this, please get in touch with the PC.
- It was suggested that some fundraising could involve pupils.

Action

Provide information about charitable status	Dawn Brown
Submit a Tesco application for the Outdoor Space project	Fundraising sub-group
Plan in a social event with fundraising	Fundraising sub-group

PARENT COUNCIL & PUPIL PARTNERSHIP

Met with the Student Council for a productive discussion about the areas they are currently working on:

- Outdoor Space project - developing ideas for enhancing the outdoor space for socialising/play and outdoor learning, looking at canopy structures for weather protection, different types of seating that would also act as meeting points and encourage movement and where in the grounds these might be sited. They will now consult the different year groups so that these ideas can be developed with input from across the school.
- P7 Transition - looking at getting information together about the Clubs run in school to share during the P7 Transition with both P7 pupils and parents. This will support the Freshers Fair for the new S1s.
- Study Areas - will consider how the study areas are used over the coming months during the S5 and S6 study leave.
- Expanding the Student Council - would like to encourage more pupils to join, particularly from year groups that are currently underrepresented, using ideas gained by those who participated in the Pupil Participation Forum run by the Director of Education.

Will join the meeting before the Easter holidays, so the Student Council can share their progress.

Action

Arrange meeting with Student Council	Parent Council & Pupil Partnership subgroup
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HORIZONS

- Mr Cookson worked with Lisa Moir and different partners in the community to put on the Careers Fair on 20th March and used this opportunity to network for the Horizons program.

COMMUNITY GROUP LINK: ASN

Provided the following resources after the meeting (please see Appendix for full details)

- SAMH is hosting a session on Time for Me on Wednesday 8 February 1200-1230 via Teams
- Youth Counselling (Attachment) Aberdeen Foyer offers counselling services available for young people (16-24) living in Aberdeenshire.
- Sunrise Partnership offers a free, confidential service in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire for Children and young people up to age 18 who have been affected by loss and bereavement.
- SQA guidance on assessment arrangements for candidates with additional support needs
- Trauma Informed Parenting
- Iwork4me self-employment support for autistic people in Scotland
- LEAD Scotland Aberdeenshire Employability
- Barnardo's Works delivers employability training and support to 16 to 24 years olds within Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.
- Independent Living Fund -(ILF)
- CALL Scotland has been around since 1983 helping children and young people to overcome disability and barriers to learning, and to fulfil their potential.

COMMUNICATION

- Charlotte & Dawn met and reviewed the PC page on the school's website. As all the information is on a single page it is challenging to navigate, long and text heavy. Suggested drop-down menu and page outline:
 - o Landing page – welcome from Chair of PC. Who/what and purpose of PC – with pictures. Embed news widget to pull through brief precis of latest meeting/highlights of achievements.

- Documents and previous minutes – for constitution and previous minutes.
- News and Activities – highlight what is happening, achievements/funding etc.
- Get Involved – attending meetings, having your say, supporting fundraising (e.g. easyfundraising).
- Contact us – how to get in touch, which areas are PC duties etc.
- Request for photos - a picture of the PC all together, office bearers, events/activities. If you have any pictures the PC website, please send them in with permission to be used from those in them.
- Consider having a point of contact for each year group – would need to discuss how they would be contacted and if there were volunteers.

Action

Develop the drop-down menu and page structure. Re-write some sections to make it friendlier and add pictures. Consider year group point of contact.	Communication sub-group
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5. Head update

Staffing

- Successfully appointed a technical teacher after position had been advertised for a while. In post in August.
- Due to long term absence advertised for Maths teacher, but no suitable applicants so teacher for Literacy and Numeracy has been appointed for a fixed term working with S1-3.
- Previous Depute Lisa Lees has now taken up permanent secondment as Quality Improvement Officer with Aberdeenshire Council. Interviews now taking place for permanent Depute Head teacher.
- Prelims taken place.
- Performance review – working on attainment review looking at prelim results with Deputies. Insight training with staff looking at performance data.
- In-service training around health and wellbeing.
- Inspection report – report will be published and a link sent out to parents on 21st March. No further visits required by audit team.
- Parents evenings - 4 this term. Mrs Wotherspoon is grateful that staff were able to re-arrange the parents evening that was on the day of industrial action.
- Business breakfast hosted to thank partners of the school for their partnership and continued support. Romana Richards, Employer School Coordinator, Developing the Young Workforce outlined her role of connecting employers and educators at the school.
- S3 Physics – classroom input from EDF Renewables Lead Technician for Dorenell Wind Farm and Area Manager for EDF Renewables who outlined their career paths and current job roles, providing pupils with an insight into their backgrounds and day-to-day working life.
- S3 Geography - visit from Ingrid Huldal, senior portfolio manager of oil and gas company Expro, looking at geothermal energy to support learning about renewable energy as part of the unit on natural resource use.
- Lunar rock samples collected by astronauts during Apollo missions were in school for science pupils to look at and discuss.
- ALEC (Aberdeenshire Life Education Centres) visit.
- Careers Fair - over 50 organisations with over 100 delegates represents at our first careers fair in 4 years and well organised by Romana Richards, DYW Employer School Coordinator.
- Holocaust Memorial Day – display in school which prompted discussion.
- Highland One World visit to speak to Social Studies pupils and the Eco-group about their passions in life, how they relate to the Sustainable Development Goals and decide on which Global Development Goal was most important to them. They used this to produce vision statements to

show how this goal could be achieved, especially in the Northern Cairngorms. The Eco-group used this information and will include this in their Green Flag Action plan for 2023.

- Madrid trip.
- Prize winning coding success for Isla, in S3, who coded a winning entry for the DressCode coding competition and earned herself a prize.
- Scotland Women's U17 – Holly selected to play as part of the Scottish National team U17s.
- SQA exam diet 24th April – 29th May.
- Final day for S6 20/21 April.

Depute Head Teacher (Learning and Teaching) update

(provided by Mrs Wotherspoon)

Working on:

- Learning, Teaching and Assessment Collegiate team to look at shared consistency.
- SQA submission deadlines/folios.
- When pupils need to change levels.
- Individual SQA timetables (dates are on SQA website, school may change the time).
- Sharing study resources for Easter.
- Working with maths teaching and revision guides.

Depute Head Teacher (Curriculum) update

- Working on course choice planning and timetabling.
- Careers Fair was well attended and received positive feedback. Plan to have it on an annual basis around March for course choice.
- Employer-led Land-Based Careers morning for S1 pupils arranged and facilitated by Countryside Learning Scotland to introduce pupils to the diversity of rural careers.
- Working with Student Council on Outdoor Space project.

Acting Depute Head Teacher (Pupil Support) update

- Focus on parents evening. Traditional in-person sessions and feedback sought after each evening with changes made for subsequent ones, e.g. more clocks, space for staff and will look to make improvement for next year. First time for quite a few parents in-person. Felt they were successful and appreciated the support from senior pupils.
- Return of in-person guests supporting pastoral areas:
 - o S1-3 visit from Fire Service about water safety.
 - o S2 visit from ALEC about drug awareness/substance abuse.
 - o S3 visit from Alcoholics Anonymous.
- Transition – planning for 2023 with very early transition program, outreach visits to feeder primaries by Diane Forbes (Pupil Support Worker) and Louise Anderson (ASL), Tree of Knowledge will provide sessions with feeder primaries, planning link week for 12th June.

6. AOB

6.1. Daily Bulletin

Some pupils find the daily bulletin is not read out, so they are unaware of what is happening in school.

Action

Mrs Wotherspoon will speak with staff to ensure the Daily Bulletin is read out	Mrs Wotherspoon
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- Mrs Wotherspoon asked if the PC would contribute towards the costs of the awards ceremony. The total cost of last year's award ceremony was £4,000. PC previous contributed towards Amazon vouchers, printing costs and trophies. School will need a new Dux board for this year's ceremony.

Action

Look at PC account for past contributions to award ceremony	Dawn Brown
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- Are the number of pupils changing levels between National 4 and National 5, the same or more than previous years?
Mrs Wotherspoon advised that after the prelims, the attainment review looks at where the pupils are and what improvements can be made. She did not feel there were more changes between levels than there has been previously.
- Fashion Show tickets?
Eco Group is organizing and haven't sold as many tickets, tickets can be bought through pupils in school.
- Will there be a meeting for pupils and parents for the activity week?
Residential trips will have meetings for parents and pupils with a chance for pupils to get to know who they are going with on the residential trip.
- Are many people interested in the trip to Las Vegas?
So far 14 pupils have been interested and the trip needs 40. Staff are keen to run trips as they are aware pupils have not had these experiences since Covid. There may be other opportunities for trips.

Date of next meeting

10th May 2023 (Wednesday)

APPENDIX

COMMUNITY GROUP LINK: ASN Resources

Opportunities for Families and Young People including Aberdeen Foyer course and youth counselling sessions currently available and information on Time for You (SAMH). Time for You is an online wellbeing support service for anyone experiencing mild to moderate emotional or mental health difficulties aged 16 and over and living in Scotland. For more information go to their website at Time for You – SAMH Mental Health and Wellbeing Support | SAMH. Or you can call the SAMH Information team on 0344 800 0550 or email at info@samh.org.uk.

Time For Me

SAMH is hosting a session on Time for Me on Wednesday 8 February 1200-1230 via TEAMS. This session will be delivered to staff that work with children/young people and parents/carers in the Fraserburgh area.

Time for Me is an 8-session life skills course based on the principles of CBT (Cognitive Behavioural Therapy), for young people aged 11 – 18 years, who are experiencing anxiety and low mood. It has been developed as a Tier 2 community-based intervention for young people who have either been referred to CAMHS, but not be taken on for this specialist support.

It is also for young people who are requiring more support than that available within school.

As well as Time for Me, complementary 90-minute mental health capacity building workshops for young people, parents/carers and school staff will also be offered.

These allow individuals to consider their own self care needs, as well as how to support others including the skills required to have mental health conversations.

For further information and to book the Time for Me session on 8th Feb, please email lyndsay.mcdonald@samh.org.uk.

Aberdeen Foyer

Youth Counselling (Attachment) Aberdeen Foyer offers counselling services available for young people (16-24) living in Aberdeenshire. There is currently no waiting list for this service. Details can be found on the attached leaflet.

Foyer Families Learning Programme in Aberdeenshire is a free course aimed at any parents/carers of children under 12 years of age. It is for parents who wish to gain a better understanding of their child, improve self-confidence, learn valuable skills, build relationships, and enjoy meaningful experience. It is a 16 week part time course delivered over zoom.

Learners will achieve a City & Guilds Extended Level 1 in Employability qualification and in addition a Level 1 Food Hygiene Certificate.

The team of coaches are PEEP Practitioner trained and deliver several sessions on Child Learning & Development covering a range of topics. IT equipment (laptop/Wi-Fi) is provided free of charge for those that need it, as well as funded childcare* (*subject to availability/eligibility). IT support and training is provided throughout the course.

If you would like to learn more about the course or have any questions about the referral process, please don't hesitate to get in touch via info@aberdeenfoyer.com

Sunrise Partnership

Sunrise Partnership offers a free, confidential service in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire for Children and young people up to age 18 who have been affected by loss and bereavement.

They are a small, local charity working in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. And provide free, therapeutic confidential support, there is no waiting list, support continues for as long as it is required and they travel to meet the child or young person in a setting they feel comfortable in. All support staff are qualified and experienced in loss work and have PVG membership.

To find out more, go to their website at <https://www.sunrisepartnership.org/> or Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SunrisePartnership/>

SQA guidance on assessment

arrangements for candidates with additional support needs

Practice Guidelines - <https://asn-aberdeenshire.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/SQA-Alternative-Assessment-Arrangements.pdf>

Reasonable Adjustments for SVQs and Related Qualifications

- https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/Reasonable-Adjustments-for-SVQs.pdf

Trauma Informed Parenting

At TIP we offer workshops and support for parents, carers, teachers and anyone living or working with children with challenging behaviours due to trauma or additional needs to apply a “trauma lens”. These parenting techniques are for all children. Not only children with trauma. In these workshops our aim is to improve mental health and wellbeing, change generational patterns of behaviour by giving parents and caregivers an awareness of the trauma informed approach and how we can reduce challenging behaviours with curiosity, calm and connection.

To find out more, visit their website at <https://www.traumainformedparenting.uk/>

Or Facebook page on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TIPtraumainformedparenting/?ref=share>

Whether you are an artist, photographer, writer or reiki master Iwork4me self-employment support for autistic people in Scotland business mentors can help YOU make self-employment a successful pathway to work and financial independence. Their service is FREE and available to autistic people in Scotland.

Contact them for more information via email sue@iwork4me.org.uk, mobile 07702 812987 or visit their website at www.iwork4me.org.uk

LEAD Scotland Aberdeenshire Employability

The project works with young adults aged 16-24 who identify as disabled and/or a carer, who are post-school and may be experiencing multiple barriers to accessing work, learning, education, community engagement and volunteering. Our learners include school leavers. We will support learners to work on their self-defined goals and achieve their potential by developing key core skills and improving qualification profiles.

To find out more, visit their website at LEAD Scotland - Linking Education and Disability » Aberdeenshire Employability | LEAD Scotland – Linking Education and Disability

Or Facebook page on <https://www.facebook.com/likeleadscotland>

Barnardo's Works

Barnardo's Works delivers employability training and support to 16 to 24 years olds within Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.

Our service delivers a wide range of programmes that will help you gain confidence to progress towards work or further training. You can get support on a one-to-one basis or within a group setting. You could even get a work placement or some SQA qualifications that you can add to your CV or Job applications.

School Transition Barnardo's Work offers a range of programmes to support school transition. These include Fit for Work, Explore and Believe and also our Aberdeenshire Employability Agreements programme. These programmes focus on helping school leavers to take their next steps into employment or further training. If you are interested in finding out more or would like to make a referral then please contact Rebecca Craigmile on 07842321387

/ rebecca.craigmile@barnardos.org.uk

Independent Living Fund -(ILF)

Are you a young disabled person aged 16-25, and living in Scotland? You could be eligible for up to £4,000 in funding, for 1 year, from the Transition Fund!

We can support you to try new activities and experiences that will help you:

- * become more engaged and active in your community;
- * enhance your independence and confidence; and
- * help you to spend more time with other people.

To find out more, visit their website at Transition Fund | ILF Scotland

CALL Scotland has been around since 1983 helping children and young people to overcome disability and barriers to learning, and to fulfil their potential. Their website contains a multitude of useful resources Including this technology guide to creating a dyslexia-friendly classroom

- https://www.callscotland.org.uk/blog/a-technology-guide-to-creating-a-dyslexia-friendly-classroom/?fbclid=IwAR3Rdu8uKfSndNOYqoYhBRPLqNQkim2muH9Ed_XINqK6KKBceRVivXa9iZk

Dates of next meetings:

14th June 2023 (Wednesday) – P7 Parent Welcome

Parent Council Members 2022 - 2023 (Quorum 6):

- Karen Leven (S1)
- Tanya Viliene (S1)
- Dawn Brown (Treasurer) (S2)
- Lucy Greene (S2)
- Sharon Witherspoon (S3)
- Coralie Robertson (Secretary) (S3)
- Fiona Henderson (S3, S1)
- Joe Purkis (Depute Chair) (S4)
- Monica Iloya (S4)
- Sarah Lewis (S4, S2)
- Frank Sewell (S5, S4, S2)
- Donna Gray (S5, S3, S2)
- Denise Smith (S6, S4)
- Ingrid Huldal (Chair) (S6, S1)
- Charlotte Milburn (S6, S2)

Parent Council Sub-committee Members 2022-2023:

Fundraising	Ingrid Huldal, Grainne Paton, Coralie Robertson, Dawn Brown
Parent Council-Pupil Partnership	Frank Sewell, Coralie Robertson
Community Group Link: Additional Support Needs	Rhona Stuart, Donna Gray, Lisa Moir
Horizons	Joe Purkis, Lisa Moir, Jan Whitfield, John Whitfield
Communication	Charlotte Millburn, Dawn Brown