



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

## **MINUTES OF THE ALFORD ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL MEETING**

Wednesday 13<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 (7.00 – 9.00 pm)

### **Attendees**

- Office Bearers: Dawn Brown (Chair), Ingrid Huldal (Treasurer), Joe Purkis (Deputy-chair).
- Parent Council Members: Monica Iloya, Sharon Witherspoon, Tanya Viliene, Linda Purkis, Karen Leven, Charlotte Millburn.
- Parent Forum: Lucy Green.
- School Staff: Mrs Angela Wotherspoon - Head Teacher.  
Dr Matt Skellern - Depute Head Teacher (Learning and Teaching).  
Mr Graham Scott - Depute Head Teacher (Pupil Support).  
Mr Stuart Cookson - Depute Head Teacher (Curriculum).
- Councillors: Cllr Sarah Brown

### **1. Welcome & apologies**

Apologies:

Parent Council members: Coralie Robertson (Secretary), Sarah Lewis, Amy Wilson, Frank Sewell, Tanya Viliene.

### **2. Review of previous meeting minutes and matters arising**

- Minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan. approved by Joe Purkis, seconded by Linda Purkis
- Matters arising are covered in the agenda items.

### **3. Treasurer's report**

Balance as of 11th March 2024 - £6,072.04

#### **Changes since last meeting:**

Income:	Easyfundraising	£65.28
	*Aberdeenshire Council	£470.25
Outgoings:	none	
Pending:	U15 Girls football kit	£417.00
	School library donation	£200.00

Reminder: Ringfenced from Co-op Outdoor Space project £4027.32  
Actual projected balance is £1,427.72.

\*Funding from Aberdeenshire Council to support the work of the Parent Council, includes funding for PC clerk which isn't being drawn this year.

#### Action

Basketball Club asked for more details to consider donation	Ingrid
Arrange thank you gift for auditing accounts	Coralie

#### 4. **Sub-committee updates**

##### FUNDRASING

- Post meeting update Race Night postponed.

##### PARENT COUNCIL & PUPIL PARTNERSHIP

- Important to maintain a connection between PC and Student Council.
- Could this be done through keeping the sub-group or by nominated points of contact?

##### FAMILY LINK

- Growing up online: informative session for parents all about supporting our children in their online lives. Organised by Aberdeenshire Council held on 12th March covering tech trends and digital wellbeing. Well received with good feedback.

##### HORIZONS

- School has many business partners on board to help out. Always looking for fresh ideas and open to PC involvement, however, the focus of a sub-group no longer needed.
- Pupils have been asked for their input.
- Information will shortly be published to parents.

##### ACCELERATE

- Proposed new sub-group encompassing Alford and others, Project Based Learning and School Leaver Profile that the school will be delivering.
- Keep PC informed and explore opportunities for support from parents.
- Staff on CLPR.

#### 5. **Head update**

- The Holocaust Memorial went well with the display available to view outside the library.
- Dress code coding competition held with an S3 pupil winning a prize and enjoyed by pupils. Included a trip to RGU.
- Careers Fair held with over 60 employment and educational organizations attending and over 300+ visitors in the building.
- Aberdeenshire Life Education Centres (ALEC) attended school for S1, S2 and S3 pupils. ALEC provides educational sessions about healthy life choices, including wellbeing, relationships, substance misuse and internet safety.
- NASA link up with the Depute Chief Space Communications to learn more about technology.

- Fairtrade, a short film presented on the goals of the Fairtrade organization.
- Community Garden progressing with lots of work done planting, tidying and installing feeders and bug hotels. A polytunnel is planned.
- Jo Munro continues to provide support and funding to families in need.
- Careers event held for S2, Deans of Huntly, Nature Scotland, National Trust for Scotland and Craigievar & Fyvie Castel all visited.
- World Book Day was celebrated with poster made and displayed on doors.
- Aquaterra visit was successful with a working at height qualification achieved by those who attended.
- Numeracy Teachers are supporting the Maths Department.
- Head of Maths applications closes today.
- Performance Review held with Head of Service and QIO to assess progress.
- School Improvement Plan reviewed, an update to parents will be provided after Easter.
- New Phone Policy rolled out to pupils and teachers with a big improvement noticed already. Thanks to PC for their support.
- Toilets have now been allocated to year groups during intervals to prevent intimidation.
- Uniform consultation held with parents keen to keep the uniform. Assembly held this week to inform pupils.
- Nashville Visit for AW & SC to take place w/c 17/3/24 – 22/3/24 as part of the Excelerate Programme.
- Children in Need is on Friday so pupils may dress as they please.
- 20<sup>th</sup> May is the start of Activities week.
- 17<sup>th</sup> June is the start of Link Week.
- Awards S1 to S3 25<sup>th</sup> June, S4 to S6 26<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **Depute Head Teacher (Learning and Teaching) update**

- SQA Exam preparation ongoing.
- NAT 5 Assignment management ongoing.
- Exams start at the end of April for 5 to 6 weeks.
- Exam timetable to be communicated before Easter.
- Feedback from teachers has been gathered to help improve next year.
- Alford Academy Lessons template now in every classroom.
- Principle Teachers involved in observing lessons as part of continual improvement.
- Working with other schools within the group to help improvements and collaboration across schools.

#### **Depute Head Teacher (Curriculum) update**

- Working on timetabling and course choices with a draft by May.
- New courses are being offered including Sport Development and Games Development and Criminology is now offered as a NAT 5.
- 77 pupils doing Foundation Apprenticeships.
- S2 had their 4<sup>th</sup> Sector day and 2 more are planned to help with pathways.
- This will be followed by a Project Based Learning activity.
- Outdoor learning includes working with the National Parks for Treescape where every pupil, including Primary, will get a chance to plant a tree in the area above the school.

#### **Depute Head Teacher (Pupil Support) update**

- Staff have been thanked for the Parents Evening.
- Feedback from Parents gathered with the main concern being the 5 minute allocation.

- Transition started with individual visits to Primary Schools completed.
- Tree of Knowledge visiting tomorrow.
- 14<sup>th</sup> May is Link Day.
- 17<sup>th</sup> June is Link Week.
- The Nurture Room is now called the Den and fundraising sourced for kitchen items. Breakfast Club will be the first priority.
- Allotment plot obtained and a dig over planned. The allotment will tie in with Family Learning and Confidence to Cook.

## 6. **AOB**

- Support for school non-attendance  
AW / GS – This can apply to a number of pupils for various reasons. Planning meetings are held to try and support the pupil back to school, these may involve other agencies / professionals. Every situation is different.
- Electronic payment for school trips  
**AW - The issues are understood and noted, other options will be explored.**
- Information to support S1 parents / carers  
GS - Open evening held for S1 parents followed by a second drop in evening. Booklets are handed out containing relevant information.  
**Consideration to be given to a Frequently Asked Questions page on the website.**

## 7. **Date of next meeting**

14<sup>th</sup> May 2024

## **Parent Council meeting dates (2023/2024)**

Wednesday 19th June 2024 (P7 parents welcome evening)

## **Parent Council Members 2023/2024 (Quorum 6):**

Nicola	(S1)
Tanya Viliene	(S2)
Ingrid Huldal (Treasurer)	(S2)
Dawn Brown (Chair)	(S3)
Charlotte Milburn	(S3)
Sarah Lewis	(S5, S3)
Sharon Witherspoon	(S4)
Coralie Robertson (Secretary)	(S4)
Donna Gray	(S4, S3)
Linda Purkis	(S5, S3)
Monica Iloya	(S5)
Amy Wilson	(S5, S1)
Joe Purkis (Depute Chair)	(S5, S3)
Frank Sewell	(S6, S5, S3)

**Parent Council Sub-committee Members 2023-2024:**

Fundraising	Amy Wilson, Sharon Witherspoon, Coralie Robertson, Dawn Brown
Parent Council-Pupil Partnership	Frank Sewell, Coralie Robertson
Family Learning	Ingrid Huldal, Dawn Brown
Horizons	Monica Iloya
Communication	Charlotte Millburn, Dawn Brown