



<https://alfordacademy.edublogs.org/parent-council>

<http://alfordaca.pc@outlook.com>

MINUTES OF ALFORD ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 29th April 2025 (7.00 – 9.00 pm)

Attendees

- Office Bearers: Dawn Brown (Chair), Joe Purkis (Depute-chair), Ingrid Huldal (Treasurer), Coralie Robertson (Secretary).
- PC Members: Linda Purkis, Charlotte Milburn, Suvidha Narayanan, Rowena Ruben, Monica Iloya.
- Parent Forum: Ian Forbes, Louisa Dahmani, Emyr Bell.
- School Staff: Mrs Angela Wotherspoon - Head Teacher.
Dr Matt Skellern - Depute Head Teacher (Learning and Teaching).
Mr Stuart Cookson Depute Head Teacher (Curriculum).
Mr Graham Scott - Depute Head Teacher (Pupil Support).
- Councillors: Cllr Goodhall, Cllr McKail.

Welcome & apologies

Apologies:

PC members: Nicole Scherer-Dickson Additionally: Cllr Blackett, Cllr Brown.

1. Review of previous minutes and matters arising

Previous minutes proposed by Joe Purkis and seconded by Dawn Brown.

- Cllr Goodhall received a reply from Chair of Education and Children Services about the level of debt on school catering cards and shared this with AW and the PC.

Actions carried forward:

- Small group of parents to work with Student Council and SLT to review Amazon vouchers used at Awards Ceremony – JP.

2. Treasurer's report

- Grant application for the community group Together for Teens will be transferred to Together for Teens.
- Alleviating poverty fund paid out to the school.
- Asda Breakfast Club grant paid out to the school.
- Alford Academy Pipe band asked the PC about becoming a sub-committee to support grant funding, however, as this could limit the funds both the PC and the Pipe band could access, they are exploring other options.

Balance as of 29th April 2025	£8,308.27
Changes since last meeting:	
Income	
Alleviating Poverty Fund	£9,850.00
Asda Breakfast Club grant	£500.00
Outgoings	
Alleviating Poverty Fund	£9,850.00
Asda Breakfast Club grant	£500.00
Ending Balance	£8,308.27
Ringfenced Coop funding for Outdoors Space project	£4,027.32
Ringfenced AVA Grant for Together for Teens	£1,750.00
Balance remaining	£2,530.95

3. Sub-committee updates

Fundraising

- AW advised that projects over £5,000 require considerable scrutiny and permissions and is a time-consuming procurement process.
- Outdoor space project to explore options below £5,000 using the Co-op funding.
- Focus on fundraising in session.

Communications

- Sub-group meeting discussed ways to communicate with parents and will seek parent's views via a survey.

Actions:

Circulate survey to parents about PC communications – DB & CM.

Investigate option of school lottery for PC to consider – SN & IH.

4. PVGs for Parent Council members

- Disclosure Scotland Act 2020 came into force on 1st April 2025 - Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme is now mandatory for those who are carrying out 'regulated roles' working or volunteering with children.
- PVG applications must be submitted before 1 July 2025.
- DB to attend information session run by Aberdeenshire Council.
- Post meeting update: Volunteer Scot have issued information to PCs to consider what regulated role they may undertake given each PC's activities may differ. DB is seeking advice for Alford Academy PC activities from Volunteer Scotland.

5. Head update

- Clan challenge – decorating doors for World Book Day.
- Pupils form Additional Support Department went curling in Aberdeen.
- Humanities logo created by pupils.

- Madrid trip – 27 pupils S4-S6.
- Maritime Museum visit for S3.
- S6 leavers day – Last Rodeo cowboy theme.
- Alford Academy Pipe Band – 13 pupils appeared with Skerryvore at MacMoray Festival.
- SQA exams.
- S2 Sector Day – Health and Social care with Police, SRUC, Robert Gordon's University.

Staffing:

- Appointment of permanent Principal Teacher of Maths.
- Interviewing for English teacher (2 days), full-time Maths teacher, maternity cover for P.E.
- Appointed new Science Technician.

- AW and GS to be visiting primary schools to meet P7s.
- School Improvement Plan – survey will go out to parents.
- Working on Standards and Quality report.
- Interviews for Senior Exec w/c 26 May – this is for pupils from the current S5s – school asked for volunteers from parents as interviewers.

Depute Head Teacher (Learning and Teaching) update

- Preparation for SQA exams - working with Support for Learning, holding invigilator training.
- Change of level for exams – cause for concern letters to inform parents of value of units for pupils who won't complete whole course.
- Program for pupils during exam leave who are not sitting many exams.
- Program of learning for staff next year, including staff observations as part of quality process.

Depute Head Teacher (Curriculum)

- Preparing new timetable for June with pupil's course choices.
- Email sent to parents for course choice discussion about timetable clashes.
- Excelerate program – S2 have had 5 Sector Days with employers visiting, S3 choosing sector for project-based learning.
- Activity Days S1-3: 4 residential trips and 20 non-residential trips.
- Junior Ranger Programme S1-3 for week with Cairngorm National Park Rangers.
- Awards Ceremony – Juniors 24th June and Seniors 25th June

Depute Head Teacher (Pupil Support) update

- P7 transition
 - o Extended transition started.
 - o Link day 8th May for 123 primary pupils.
 - o Informal P7 parent drop-in for guided tours on 6th May.
- Virtual drug education session for parents from DSM Foundation.

6. AOB

LGBTQ+

This was discussed as there has been new work/units in the PSE curriculum. It was discussed if this content could be shared with parents.

Toilets

- Pupils and staff toilets are unisex with separate cubicles and shared handwashing, with each area having an enclosed accessible toilet.
- School awaiting guidance from Education Authority on any changes to provision of toilets.

School rankings table in Times newspaper

- Times newspaper data for 5 Highers 2 years old and does not include Foundation Apprenticeships and National Progression Awards, Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, comparator or staffing levels, different cohorts, ASN pupils and number of pupils who leave in S4.
- AW will provide and discuss Insight data comparing school's exam performance with Aberdeenshire schools and Nationally at PC meeting in new session.
- School's areas for improvement identified through quality assurance and AW meets with Faculty Heads in Aug/Sep after SQA results and post prelims.

Cllr McKail advised that Robert Nicol Trust Fellowships and Scholarship is an educational charity which makes small financial awards to support students from or based in the Aberdeen region who are undertaking courses of one kind or another at the post-school level. Application closing date 1 Aug 25.

7. Date of next meeting

10th June 2025 - P7 Welcome evening

PC meeting dates 2024/2025:

24th September 2024 (AGM)

19th November 2024

25th February 2025

29th April 2025

10th June 2025 (P7 Welcome evening)

Parent Council Members 2024/2025 (Quorum 6):

Kenny Criggie (S1)

Suvidha Narayanan (S1)

Rowena Ruden (S1)

Jonathan Christie (S1)

Tanya Viliene (S3)

Ingrid Huldal (S3, S1)

Dawn Brown (S4)

Charlotte Milburn (S4)

Nicole Scherer-Dickson (S5, S1)

Sharon Witherspoon (S5)

Coralie Robertson (S5)

Linda Purkis (S6, S4)

Joe Purkis (S6, S4)

Frank Sewell (S6,S4)

Monica Iloya (S6)