



# Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021 (via Zoom)

- Present:** Hilary Ramage - Chair, George Docherty – Head Teacher, Jackie Lennox – Treasurer, Lindsay Campbell – Secretary, Katherine Woodhouse – Minute Secretary & Dr Gillian Sargent – PT Maths
- Council Members:** Emma Inglis, Katie Atkinson, Kirsty Broadfoot, Susan Forsyth & Cllr Bob Pollock
- Forum Members:** Carolyn Adams, Jeff Lawlor & Marianne Jackson
- Apologies:** Caryn Mair, Cllr Craig Mackay, Lindsey Connell, M Stone & Judith McCaughey

	Action
<p>1. <b><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hilary welcomed those in attendance and apologies were noted.</li><li>George introduced Dr Gillian Sargent (PT English) who has agreed to attend Parent Council meetings when possible, as has Robert McLoughlin, however he was unable to attend this evening.</li></ul>	
<p>2. <b><u>Captains Report</u></b></p> <p>Jake Murray and Cameron Jack provided an update on the Captains' activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Next year's school show – clues to the name of the show have been posted on Twitter and an announcement video will be uploaded on Friday.</li><li>There will be a dress down day on Friday with a collection in aid of RNLI and McMillan.</li><li>Collections for the food bank have been taking place this week and will end on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October.</li><li>S1 and S6 will be taking part in a Murder Mystery event around school for Halloween.</li><li>The captains are working on a new Student Improvement plan and have a few ideas to improve school life for students, including Covid recovery groups/study groups supporting S1-4 after a long period of online learning and S5/6 support after key assessments.</li><li>The captains would like to introduce something similar to Mr Docherty's Daily Dozen to get some ideas from students. Students would be selected at random by the office so there is full representation across the year groups.</li><li>The captains recognise the importance of re-building the school community and are keen to organise events to get parents back into school as soon as possible.</li><li>A Suggestion box with weekly themes has been introduced where anonymous contributions can be made, starting with mental health and study skills.</li><li>A new study area for S6 near the library is being developed.</li></ul> <p>George confirmed that all captains and ambassadors have now been appointed and there is a strong team in place.</p>	
<p>4. <b><u>Approval of Minutes</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were approved by Jackie Lennox and seconded by Katie Atkinson.</p>	

<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sponsored walk was publicised on Parent Council social media pages.</li> <li>• Pilot communications sub group – George will check with Sarah Wyllie as to whether this needs to be expanded and advise Hilary/Lindsay.</li> <li>• Future Parent Council meetings – George advised that SAC were now allowing the school to hold Parent Council meetings in school. With this in mind the November meeting could be a hybrid format. Katie offered to arrange the lets but will copy Lindsay in so that she can take this on as part of the Secretary's role when Katie leaves the committee. Covid rules regarding mask wearing will be in place but masks can be removed once seated. Table layout will need to be considered also.</li> <li>• George is still waiting on the go ahead for parents' evenings in school but does not think he will hear anything prior to Christmas. Individual parent meetings are allowed during the school day.</li> <li>• George is working on a quick start guide on the website – he has already reviewed the website with Catherine Owens and tweaked some areas to make it easier for new parents to navigate. All the study skills information has been signposted through Groupcall.</li> <li>• School clubs – PE staff and Jill Cooper have created a poster advertising all the clubs available. This will also be on Teams pages by the end of the week.</li> <li>• Blazer swap – Alison Braddock has started work on this and, in liaison with Lindsay, decided to increase the amount to £30 for handing in a blazer and £40 to buy one. George advised that Ayrshire Schoolwear will give a discount if the school purchases a selection of blazers that can be loaned out to students. The school keeps a small stock of these that can be used by students attending school events who are not able to purchase their own.</li> <li>• HPV catch up vaccine – George still does not have an answer on this with regard to age profiles and time between boosters. There is no school nurse at the moment but it has been passed on to the vaccine team. Carolyn offered to try and find out also.</li> <li>• Cllr Mackay was going to contact PC Harrower regarding the Cycle to School scheme. This can be followed up at the next meeting.</li> </ul>	<p>GD</p> <p>KA</p> <p>GD/CA</p> <p>CM</p>
<p>5. <b><u>Closing the Gap (Covid Recovery) – Pamela Drewett, RMPs Teacher</u></b></p> <p>Pamela outlined her remit with regard to Covid recovery and closing the gap.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This role has been split between 2 teachers, Pamela and Justine Lennon. Justine is the primary specialist focusing on S1-3 and covers a Monday and Tuesday. Pamela is taking on the senior phase.</li> <li>• The role involves looking at those students who are isolating at home and those returning to school.</li> <li>• A text went out to parents asking them to ensure that if their child is having to isolate at home, they access their emails. Either Justine or Pamela will have emailed them to advise that they will be their first point of contact to help navigate around Teams and can be contacted about any issues with Teams.</li> <li>• Students can also use the Chat function on Teams to contact teachers directly. Pamela and Justine can provide support to both students and teachers.</li> </ul>	
<p>6. <b><u>Attainment – George Docherty</u></b></p> <p>George presented an overview of the latest Insight data (the programme used for benchmarking attainment) which was updated in September. This aims to analyse leaver data in literacy and numeracy as well as destination data, celebrate wider achievement and outline areas for improvement.</p> <p>BGE data only goes up to June 2019 as the Scottish Government has not requested any data for the last 2 years. GL assessments for English and Maths are currently being used across S1-3 to cover baseline evidence of progress (English</p>	

– 50-minute assessment; Maths 15 minute timed plus 50-minute assessment). Aim to complete these by the end of this week so that they can be analysed to identify where support is required.

- Overall attainment in S4-6 was shown from 2015-2021:
  - 94% of S4 achieved 5 Level 3 or better in 2021
  - 89% of S4 achieved 5 Level 4 or better in 2021
  - 55% of S4 achieved 5 Nat 5 or better in 2021Currently looking at moving away from the 6-6-6 model and bringing in another subject at Nat 5 but this would not come into effect until 2023/24.
- Higher level has shown an increased picture over the years, however the aim is to improve on the consistency of achievement at 5 Highers (only 19% in 2021) which is included in this year's School Improvement Plan.
- Advanced Highers increased considerably in 2020 – there were less students dropping out last year due to the pandemic, so this has been a strong performance.
- George presented graphs which showed Marr's performance vs South Ayrshire average. Marr was consistently above the Authority apart from at Level 6 where Marr showed a dip vs the Authority, so the aim is to close that gap.
- George presented leavers' data for Literacy and Numeracy by the end of S5, where Marr is sitting above SAC average and the virtual comparator for Nat 5, and slightly above for Higher. This is based on evidence gathered for last year. In Literacy Marr remains above comparator schools and shows an increase in 2021 across Levels 4 and 5. In Numeracy Marr is very close to 100% at Nat 5 but slightly below the comparator for Higher. In Literacy and Numeracy by the end of S6, Marr is again stronger than the comparator.
- George presented a graph on improving attainment for all in the senior phase which splits young people by ability. Marr is well above SAC and National figures in all areas but slightly below the virtual comparator, which means some young people are not getting a quality award at 5<sup>th</sup> year level. By S6 Marr is broadly in line with the comparator and above SAC for complementary tariff points. The positive destination data shows 98.5% for all leavers last year which is above SAC and National levels.
- Marr is currently supporting positive destinations through a variety of initiatives, including: wider curriculum options, Work Out programme, work experience, skills academy, foundation apprenticeships, UCAS support, university programmes, SDS hub data, bi-annual destination surveys, more focus on vocational qualifications, improving support for college applicants, increasing independent learning skills, increasing employer engagement in BGE, widening participation (university) and embedding Career Education Standard.
- In terms of SCQF and Wider Achievement, 60 pupils achieved Higher Leadership, however as this is only a pass or fail it carries less tariff points. There were 25 Student Wellbeing Ambassadors and 40 pupils achieving DoE Certificate of Achievement. Overall, a great mix of wider achievement and vocational courses and the stay on rates are very good.
- Areas for improvement include year on year improvement at 5 Higher level; building staff capacity in effective tracking and interventions, increasing the quality of awards and increasing the number and level of qualifications for students accessing vocational courses. Initial next steps:
  - Review of learner options and levels
  - Early S4-6 full report (October 2021)
  - S4-6 Study Skills evening
  - S1-3 GL assessments in English and Maths
  - PT Raising Attainment identifying young people to participate in Assertive Mentoring
  - Staff and Peer mentoring

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Assembly Teams pages to communicate with learners</li> <li>○ Early notification of prelim window and timetable</li> </ul>	
<p>7. <b><u>School Show</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A video will be released on Friday announcing next year's school show. The licence fee has been paid and the show will go ahead over 3 nights including a matinee performance, to which some of the residents of local care homes will be invited.</li> <li>● George asked if anyone was able to help with production, publicity, fundraising, front of house and refreshments. Liam Baillie will be co-ordinating the show and if anyone is interested in helping they can let George know. It would be ideal if this request for help could be posted on the Facebook and Twitter pages.</li> <li>● Jackie suggested setting up a school show sub committee and try and get local businesses involved in sponsorship. She would be happy to help with this, having done something similar before. Judith and Carolyn both offered to help. It would be helpful to know exactly what help is required if George could check with Liam Baillie.</li> </ul>	<p>LC/KB</p> <p>GD/JL</p>
<p>8. <b><u>Next Month's Agenda Items</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Learner Journeys – this will be covered by Robert McLoughlin and Laura Cleland from the Guidance team.</li> <li>● Careers evening – George will check with Robert, Laura and Colin Moncrieff as to whether there is anything the Parent Council can do to help with this.</li> </ul>	
<p>9. <b><u>AOCB</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cllr Pollock asked where the Foodbank collections are going as there is a Foodbank organised by the Muirhead Tenants and Residents Group which is looking for donations. George advised that they usually work with the South Ayrshire Foodbank but would be happy to support a local foodbank. Cllr Pollock will forward the contact name for George to pass on to Gillian who co-ordinates the collection.</li> <li>● Carolyn asked whether Marr had any team t-shirts for children attending sporting competitions on behalf of the school, as she had noticed that other schools seemed to have these at a recent running competition in Dunfermline. George will speak to the PE department about having a school t-shirt.</li> </ul>	<p>BP</p> <p>GD</p>
<p>10. <b><u>Next Meeting</u></b></p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 at 7pm in the school meeting room as well as on Zoom. Further details will be provided prior to the meeting.</p>	