Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 2 October 2025 at 6:30pm

AGM and Meeting

Present: Judith McCaughey (Chair), Susan Forsyth (Treasurer), George Docherty (Head Teacher), Gail Whyte (Secretary) Margaret Anne Arnott (Minute Taker).

Council Members: Carolyn Jamieson, Councillor Bob Pollock, Councillor Craig McKay, Amy Griffiths

Forum Members: Sam Anderson, Mary Randall, Nicola Cushley

School Captains: Elle Saunders, Jasmine Caufield

Apologies: Alison Braddock, Thomas Jenkins, Lynda Hardman, Milie McNish, Sarah Ewer

1. Welcome and apologies

Judith welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Action Review

- No actions to review

3. Captains Report

Elle and Jasmine gave a report on the great work being undertaken by the school captains. Some of these were as follows:

- The sponsored walk was a great success and all young people were respectful and a credit to Marr College. They raised so far £2064 with money still coming in.
- Sam And Elle represented the school at a recent meeting with the interim Director of Education where they discussed different issues that affected the school and if there had been any improvements. They discussed the new transitions and advanced Highers.
- S6 students Inge Cummings and Jamie Bock were involved in the interview process for the appointment of Director of Education.

- Pleased to announce Scott Mulholland was successful. Scott is a former Marr College student and Depute Head at Dundonald Primary. He has been a great supporter of the school and we look forward to continuing to work together to improve outcomes for our young people.
- S1 and S2 completed a hands-on CPR workshop to gain lifesaving skills
- They are also working on reviewing how young people feel safe in school, online and the anti-bullying policy.
- Our S2 and S3 pupils (and a few others who managed to find a seat!) enjoyed a live performance from new girl group XO, who sang four songs from their upcoming EP. The band also spoke about positive self-image and engaged pupils in a Q&A session. It was fair to say that the pupils were very enthusiastic, and they had a great time posing for selfies and getting autographs.

Dates for the diary

- S4 Tracking reports next week
- Thursday 9 October 2025, 1530 – 1800 hours for S4 parents evening with a study skills drop-in session for all parents/carers/guardians

4. HT Report

A copy of the report was made available for all to read and sent out to all parents/carers/guardians. A few points were noted as follows:

- All staff participated in a digital update training session to ensure our approaches remain current and consistent.
- Our office staff organised a successful bake sale in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care.
- A team of Marr staff have been invited to present at the South Ayrshire learning conference on the development of our S1 – S3 curriculum.
- Welcome to Steven Easton who joins our janitorial team.
- Parent Portal registration is a whopping 87% - thank you to all who currently use.
- School staff have met with representatives from Troon Heritage to begin planning a Heritage Trail around the town.
- Weekly litter picks well underway and thanks to all pupils and staff involved in keeping our local area clean and tidy.

Dates for the diary

- Tuesday 7 October 2025 – S4 – S6 Tracking Reports issued via Parent Portal.
- Thursday 9 October 2025, 1530 – 1800 hours for S4 parents evening with a study skills drop-in session for all parents/carers/guardians
- School Holidays - Monday 13 – Monday 20 October 2025 - Pupils return on Tuesday 21 October 2025
- Wednesday 29 October 2025 S5/S6 Parents meetings
- Thursday 30 October 2025 – S1/S6 Halloween Disco

5. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3 September 2024 were approved by Gail Whyte and seconded by Carolyn Jamieson.

6. **Enhanced Assessment approaches to Broad General Education presented by Dr. Sargent**

Currently running a learning, teaching and assessment working group.

Adapative assessments recognises that all learners are different and are allowed to chose different methods, ways of how to complete assessments. Whether it is verbal, written, practical. Where it takes place in what environments suit the person best. Assessments are to be learner led, flexible, reliable, valid to ensure that our young people get the best possible results.

It is a move towards continuous assessments and away from traditional exams. There has been an independent review of qualifications and assessments and a change is coming towards continuous assessments.

This is for our Broad General Education which is implemented in S1 to S3 years however there is a misalignment when moving to S4 and upwards as the senor phase changes back to the rigid exam approach.

The working group have been working on developing and encouraging learner led assessment, with more flexibility to work out how we can better serve our learners. Offer them choice, different methods, different subjects, genres, environments and timings of exams.

It is also noted here that sometimes too much choice can be overwhelming for learners. Therefore a balance must be found here.

Another aspect that they look at is how can teachers change their thinking to support our learners to show the knowledge that is in there but traditional exams perhaps doesn't bring this out.

Wondered if parents could also be involved in this process and to provide feedback.

A general discussion occurred around this subject about the benefits of this and all were very positive about the flexibility, giving our young people the best possible start and bring them very best out in them.

7. **S1 – S3 Assessment Calendars**

Mr Docherty highlighted that there are S1 – S3 assessment calendars and for the senior school too. For parents/carers and young people to be able to know month by month what their young person is focussing on in classes. They can be found on our website and include some links to allow to sign post to further resources to assist. It is worth noting here that most resources are posted on the individual class teams pages.

Mr Docherty also advised of a study skills session at the upcoming 4th year parents' night for parent/carers/guardians to assist their young person(s) with this matter.

8. Insight Attainment Overview

This information is only available to be accessed online by teachers. However, Mr Docherty demonstrated the ScotExed Insight platform. National measures at 4th and 5th year and exit measures at 6th year to see where we are as a school compared to other schools and in the authority. Using a virtual comparator, it shows if we are above or below the virtual comparator. This is the comparison of a young person of a similar demographic across Scotland. Charts and graphs were shown that evidence that Marr was above the virtual comparator for every year. Roughly around 5% higher. This is a great sign.

This session, Marr sits above South Ayrshire measures and above the national average. This has improved but keen to maintain and continue to improve.

99% of our students have went on to a positive destination i.e. a job, university, college, modern apprenticeship and so on.

Cllr Pollock stated that this is discussed politically, and they are keen to hear the outcome of positive destinations.

Data from these graphs and charts can be manipulated, but the overarching message is if you stay on to 6th year at Marr College you will achieve more than most schools.

9. Skills Elective – Creative Collaboration

Skills elective is subjects that can be selected by young people such as barista skills, nail and beauty bar, Duke of Edinburgh, Photography, School of Rugby and School of Hockey. How can this fit into metaskills – SDS. Currently we don't report on these subjects so Mr Docherty asked the Parent Council to complete a creative collaboration session of what this might look like. Keen to allow pupils to report on themselves and what should be in this report. Ideas were generated and Mr Docherty noted these. Hoping to have this filter into young people' world of work profile. Showcasing all skills that they have attained on top of all the other skills.

Annual General Meeting

Chairs Report – Judith McCaughey

- Judith took centre stage and gave a fantastic presentation on how important the Parent council is to the school and that what we do is vital to support Mr Docherty and the school. All members agreed that it was a privilege to be part of the Parent Council.
- Judith thanked all members for their attendance and hard work throughout the year with special thanks to Susan Forsyth who continues as our treasurer, Margaret Anne Arnott who takes the minutes and is responsible for our social media output and finally, Gail Whyte who has taken on the role of secretary.

- We were very happy to meet the four new school captains at our first meeting and have already been impressed by their level of enthusiasm and engagement. We were also very pleased to hear the positive report from Mr Doherty on pupil attainment at the school in the most recent round of SQA examinations.
- A few matters that the Parent Council will work on include – colours application system, creating a sub committee for school trips, reviewing the anti-bullying policy, continue to improve parental engagement and communication in the school community. All relevant and important topics for all involved.
- Always welcome new members and new ideas for all within the school environment including teachers and parents.
- We are ultimately here to help support the staff ensuring every child in the school has the education and support they need to thrive.
- All thanks to Judith for providing another year or extraordinary leadership

Treasurers Report - Susan Forsyth

- Healthy budget still in place. Most of the money has come from Christmas concert and blazers.
- Total in account £1736, slightly up from last year
- We donated £200 to the S6 pre-prom party
- We contributed £130 to the S1 book festival for juice, water and sweets
- Sold 18 blazers this year (Sell for £40 - £30 goes to person who donated and The Parent Council keep £10)
- Alison is the point of contact for the Blazers. Looking for a new person to run the blazers as this will be Alison's last year.
- Could we contribute to fund the S1 cinema trip to the Astoria in Ayr and towards the 6th year prom again. A resounding Yes from all members.
- A bank charge of £4.99 per month must begin. All agreed to pay this due to the difficulties in getting the account set up.
- All accounts have been audited and signed off and will now be passed to the secretary.

An overview of the bank account is as follows:

Opening Balance	£1544.65	
Income Generated	£180 £338.25 £42.40	Sale of 18 Blazers Christmas Concert 2024 Summer Concert 2025 – sale of ice creams
Debits	£130 £200	S1 book festival S6 No Secco Prom event
Closing Balance as at 02 October 2025	£1736.34	

Election of Office Bearers

- **Chair** – Judith McCaughey nominated and seconded by Gail Whyte and Susan Forsyth.
- **Vice Chair** – Carolyn Jamieson – nominated and seconded by Margaret Anne Arnott and Judith McCaughey
- **Treasurer** – Susan Forsyth – nominated and seconded by Carolyn Jamieson and Amy Griffiths.
- **Secretary** – Gail Whyte – nominated and seconded by Margaret Anne Arnott and Amy Griffiths.
- **Minute Secretary** – Margaret Anne Arnott - nominated and seconded by Carolyn Jamieson and Sam Anderson.

AGM was concluded at this point.

11. Next Month's Agenda

- Christmas Concert – Wednesday 10 December 2025
- Gillian McCallum and Jordan Norrie from modern languages to discuss curriculum rational

12. AOCB

- Two priority appeals for Higher RE were approved straight away and likely to hear any day now for the other appeals. Likely to come through on 3 October 2025
- Mr Docherty raised parents and carers dropping their young people in the school car park. Re affirmed to only use drop off lanes. He will send out reminders for this and the campus PC will stand directing parents to the drop of lanes. Margaret Anne Arnott will post this important message on social media to ensure that the message of keeping our young people, staff and others safe.
- Cllr McKay was keen to know how many young people didn't have access to devices. Mr Docherty advised that they did a survey in the past and 95% had a device including a phone, tablet or laptop. What could be done to ensure that those that do not have access will be able to get them. Cllr Pollock advised Mr Docherty to approach the Marr Trust with this to see if they could assist in the purchase of chrome books or something similar.
- A general discussion occurred regarding this and how vital it was to ensure that young people have access to this resource.

13. Date of next Meeting

This will take place at Marr College on Wednesday 5 November 2025 at 6:30pm