Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 3 September 2025 at 6:30pm

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

Council Members: Carolyn Jamieson, Amy Griffiths, Katherine Gall

Forum Members: Thomas Jenkins, Lynda Hardman, Jigar Gajjar, Mary Randall, Sarah Ewer, Emma Connelly, Millie McNish, Nicola Cushley, Sam Anderson

School Captains: Elle Saunders, Jasmine Caufield, Sam Braddock, Rose Moncrieff

Apologies: Alison Braddock, Rhoda Braddick, Cllr McKay, Cllr Pollock

1. Welcome and Apologies

Judith welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Action Review

- No actions to review

3. Captains Report

The House Captains began by welcoming all back after the summer holidays and thanked us for our support. They commented on how everyone has settled in well for the beginning of the new term.

- S4/S5/S6 achieved great SQA results
- S1 settling in well
- Over the summer there has been new design work installed throughout the school.
- Annual Sponsored Walk day on Thursday 18 September 2025 – Dress down day.
- Lots of sporting events going on including rugby and hockey teams pitching against High School of Glasgow. Its going to be tough games but sure Marr will do us proud.

- Participatory budget – There is £5,000 available to the school to resource difference aspects of the school. They are making a presentation and going to consult with all pupils. They will shortlist a variety of ideas and they are planning on a vote day in one of the plazas to vote for the best idea to use the money.

4. Head Teacher Report

Mr Docherty gave a presentation; here are some of the key points:-

- Mr Docherty welcomed everyone back and would like to thank, our young people, staff, parents, carers and guardians for ensuing such a smooth return. The S1 pupils have settled in extremely well, quickly becoming part of our school community. Uniform standards across the school are excellent – thank you for your continued support...
- School roll is 1100 pupils and assemblies have taken place focussing on our school values and expectations. Great to see all pupils engaged and participating.
- Congratulations to our learners on their achievements in this year's SQA exams. Our overall attainment is very positive and look forward to building on this in the coming year.
- S4 saw an increase in all measures. 51% achieved at least 5 awards at National 5 level, 91% achieved at least 5 awards at National 4 level and 96% achieved at least 5 awards at National 3 level.
- S5 – 58% achieved at least one award at Higher level A - C, 41% achieved at least 3 awards at Higher level A – C, 24% achieved at least 5 awards at Higher level A – C.
- S6 – 18% achieved at least one award at Advanced Higher level.
- A very well done to every pupil for their hard work and well done to the staff and families who have assisted in gaining these achievements.
- Assemblies for all year groups have focused on our values of Community, Ambition, Respect and Equity. Clear expectations have been set for the year ahead.
- Our senior prize giving took place on Wednesday 27 August 2025. Celebrating the attainment and achievements of senior students. Congratulations to our 7 Dux winners in S4 and 4 joint Dux medallists in S5.
- We are now looking to expand House Captains to include S1 – S5 students. Mrs Anderson, Mr Russell, S6 House Captains and the guidance team will manage this.
- It was raised that we are coming away from X and moving to Instagram as a social media platform This is to share photos, celebrating successes and so on. It is not a vehicle for messaging this remains with Parent Portal and Eduspot.

- **Dates for the diary**
  - Thursday 18 September 2025 – Sponsored Walk (the whole school)
  - Friday 19 and Monday 22 September 2025 – School holiday
  - Friday 26 September 2025 – S1–S3 tracking reports, issued via Parent Portal.
  - Tuesday 7 October – S4-S6 tracking reports, issued via Parent Portal

- Thursday 9 October 2025 – S4 Parents' meeting (1530 hours – 1800 hours)

5. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11 June 2025 were approved by Gail Whyte and seconded by Susan Forsyth.

6. Initial results update

The results this year have been very positive for all our young learners. They have done well with a lot of changes that have occurred i.e. Covid, changing of prelims and so on.

The exam diet saw 100 S4 pupils achieve at least 5 National 5s

Have looked at trends, patterns and analysed the data.

A variety of percentages were shown that all evidenced a marked increase in results.

Advanced Highers were discussed – It is likely that next year these results will be raised. Universities were advising young people to take more Highers last year. There appears to have been a larger uptake in Advanced Highers this year so it will be interesting to see the results next year.

Attainment Over Time Chart displayed evidenced that Marr were slightly above South Ayrshire, so Mr Docherty is looking to see how to widen this margin. This is achieved by offering more opportunities to all young people, the introduction of the seventh subject has been successful as young people are choosing a favoured practical subject, they would perhaps have been unable to in the past. This is allowing them to explore other subjects away from the routine ones. Ayr and Prestwick have just introduced this. Marr and Belmont were one of the pilots for the extra subject.

UCAS success – 80 young people applied, 74 were placed in their first choice and 100% got offers from their 2nd and/or 3rd choices. Noted that we had 5 accepted into medical school.

Positive destinations – We track destinations 1 year down the line based on school leavers. 99% went on to a positive destination whether that was college, university, apprenticeship and/or work. This is positive data and positive news. Well above our comparators.

There was an issue with RE results where young people were scoring unexpectedly low for this then passing all other subjects. There has been a group appeal raised, which is the first time that this has been done at Marr, in the hope that the marking is reviewed.

The standards and quality report, which is an overview of where the school is now, will be emailed out to all parents/carers/guardians.

7. School Improvement – Parental Engagement

Staff are spilt up into groups and they each work on different priorities.

These priorities are

1) Learning teaching assessments
2) Wellbeing, equality and inclusion
3) Raising attainment

Then there are groups within that e.g. communication group, parental engagement, curriculum innovations groups, under achievement, health and safety and so on.

Taking Forward Our School Improvement slide was shown - It was to focus on parental engagement, communication, right respect schools, career education, health and wellbeing, devolved school management, school funds – Looking for parents to get involved in these.

A discussion arose around this, and a few comments were made about making the level of commitment clear to parents and email out to parents/carers/guardians to see what response you get. If you have linked in with the school before then perhaps speak with them to see if they could assist. Carolyn used her example where she managed to have work colleagues come in and help at numerous events.

Anti bullying policy was discussed – This requires reviewed as it hasn't been reviewed since 2022 and Mr Docherty is keen to re look at this. Provided us with the policy and a QR code to allow us to submit our feedback then send out to all the parents/careers/guardians.

8. School Trips

These are slowly filtering back in with the Spain trip with Ms Mancini occurring next week. Looks set to be a great trip and a great learning experience. There was discussion around when should the lead-in time begin to pay for overseas trips and the consensus was monthly payments, 12-18 months in advance. Then it is not as much of a financial commitment closer to the time. Would like to focus on STEM subjects for 2nd year next year and become part of the curriculum offer.

The treat trips such as the Manchester City trip are very successful and oversubscribed.

Katherine raised that all children should get access to trips, outdoor learning experiences etc. A discussion occurred around this and on how to develop this, ensure all can access trips and select those that would really benefit.

There is a Marr Travel grant of around £11,000. The prices for coaches have risen astronomically. For a recent trip from Troon to Ayr, the price of the bus was in excess of £600. Mr Docherty will put items together and come back to us to see what is needed.

9. School Events

Christmas show Wednesday 10 December 2025
Careers Evening Thursday 22 January 2026
Burns Supper Thursday 29 January 2026
School Concert Thursday 4 June 2026
Dress down day Thursday 25 June 2026

A discussion around school events occurred and all in parents' council intimated that we would be happy to help. If the School and/or school captains approached us we would assist.

10. Next Month's Agenda

Adaptive Learning – Mr Bell is scheduled to present to Marr Parent Council at next meeting

11. AOCB

- Colours update – Feedback from pupils suggests that they prefer Colours ties to embroidered colours on blazers. Some pupils are also wearing pre-used blazers with colours already attached. The lady who completed the embroidering has now retired. We feel young people are looking for a badge in S1 – S3 and the tie in S4 – S6. Changes are coming with this. There was some dubiety about music outside of school not being recognised. Mr Docherty will follow this up.
- Amy raised a fundraising idea that perhaps the S6s could take forward to assist Cycling without Age Scotland, which use a Tri-shaw bike where 2 people can sit in seats in the front whilst someone cycles the bike - making cycling more inclusive to all age groups especially the elderly who tend not to get around as frequently as they used to. These Tri-shaw bikes are in the region of £11000 so they are expensive.
- Lynda asked if the quarter zip top has changed. Mr Docherty advised that it hadn't. Gail added that the website displays one with white piping down the sleeves but when you order, this isn't what comes - it's the plain black one. GD will ask for the image to be updated on the website.

11. Date of next Meeting and AGM

Wednesday 3 September 2025 at 6:30pm – Marr College, Dundonald Road, Troon, KA10 7AB