



# Douglas Academy Parent Council

Tuesday 11th June 2024 7pm

## MINUTES

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1. A warm welcome to Mr Michael Healy (Head teacher) and Ms Fiona Davidson (PT Mathematics and Deputy Head) from the Parent Council. We look forward to collaborating in 2024-2025.
2. The Parent Council would like to thank Andrew for his dedication and expertise.
3. There is a vacancy on the Parent Council (PC) for a new member, this is available to any DA parent. PC continue to welcome all parents who wish to attend the PC meetings.
4. PC Forum update – the last forum was cancelled. There has been no new communication about a future date.
5. First Aid Course. The first aid course offered to S4, S5 & S6 2023-24 was well received. It was confirmed this will be continued in 2024-2025.
6. The speed camera / pedestrian crossing issue is now closed. Road markings will be improved. No further action is required by the PC.
7. The issue of lack of electronic payment at the Darista has now been resolved. DA staff and pupils will be able to pay via bank card at the Darista in August.
8. The issue of pupils Vaping in the toilets was re-raised due to the change in management. Restricted access to toilets is currently being used during some points in the day. Vape alarms are being reviewed however the high cost and practicality of responding to the alarms mean they are unlikely to provide a solution. DA continue to try to educate pupils to the dangers of use.
9. A question was raised about the use of mobile phones by pupils in DA. It was established that EDC has a policy of no mobile phones. Ultimately, it is up to the school and individual teachers of use during class and parents at other times. A discussion occurred on the mental health issues social media and phones have on young people. Benefits if used appropriately were also highlighted. Various options were briefly discussed regarding a parent consultation or pupil consultation on banning the phone in school. It was decided that a 'phone free' approach will continue to be taken rather than a 'blanket ban'. So no change at the moment. Mr Healy agreed to review material, on the disadvantages of mobile phones, provided by a DA parent. DA will continue to educate pupils on appropriate mobile phone use. This topic will remain an agenda point for future discussion.
10. Ms Davidson looks forward to collaborating with the PC and DA parents on Family Learning. It is hoped that parents will share their learnings and requirements so that families, pupils and the school can benefit. This topic will become more transparent to parents throughout 2024-2025 and will remain on the PC agenda.

11. The issue of lack of PTA members was raised. Mr Healy would like to support the development and growth of the PTA, a meeting on how this progresses will be set up. All DA parents are welcome to join or help the PTA.

12. A Head Teacher update was shared and will be added to the minutes or attached as a separate document.

Key points raised included:

- Staffing changes, some of which have already been communicated. There will be two additional posts. These posts will include destination planning for young people.
- There are new plans to increase leadership opportunities for all pupils S1-S6 in 2024-2025. With some accredited courses being offered.
- Future ski trips are still planned despite staff changes.
- Further detail can be found in the Head Teacher report.